

DAYTONA 500

Horrifying crash, Hamlin's victory display contrasts of racing's risks and rewards

Back page



AFGHANISTAN

Ghani finally declared winner of disputed presidential election

Page 3

FACES

Morgan's comedy career back on track after 2014 accident

Page 14

Led by US, global military spending had biggest bump in decade » Page 3

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Into the inferno

MOH recipient fueled heroism on Iwo Jima with flamethrower

By MICHAEL E. RUANE
The Washington Post

ONA, W.Va.
The Japanese soldiers came out of their concrete "pill box" with bayonets fixed, determined to get the Marine who had been killing them all afternoon with a flamethrower.

Their target was Hershel Williams. He was 5-foot-6, the youngest of the 11 children of a dairy farmer from Quiet Dell, W.Va. He had a nice smile, and a girl back home named Ruby whom he planned to marry when the war was over.

He was 21 and known as "Woody." But 75 years ago this month, on a Godforsaken volcanic island in the Pacific called Iwo Jima, he was a terrifying destroyer of the Japanese, incinerating men in their hideouts with jets of blazing diesel fuel and high octane gasoline.

They had to stop him. But he saw them coming, and pulled the two triggers on his fearsome weapon.

SEE INFERNO ON PAGE 4

Photographs on display at the home of Hershel "Woody" Williams show images of the Marine veteran today and in 1945.

RICH-JOSEPH FACUN
For The Washington Post

Boy Scouts' future uncertain after bankruptcy filing

By DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

Barraged by hundreds of sex abuse lawsuits, the Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday in hopes of working out a potentially mammoth victim compensation plan that will allow the 110-year-old organization to carry on.

The Chapter 11 filing in federal bankruptcy court in Wilmington, Del., set in motion what could be one of the biggest, most complex bankruptcies ever seen. Scores of lawyers are seeking settlements on behalf of several thousand men who say they were molested

as scouts by scoutmasters or other leaders decades ago but are only now eligible to sue because of recent changes in their states' statute-of-limitations laws.

By going to bankruptcy court, the Scouts can put those lawsuits on hold. Ultimately they could be forced to sell off some of their vast property holdings, including campgrounds and hiking trails, to raise money for a compensation trust fund that could surpass a billion dollars.

The bankruptcy petition listed the Boy Scouts' assets as between \$1 billion and \$10 billion, and its liabilities at \$500 million to \$1 billion.

SEE SCOUTS ON PAGE 6



A statue outside the Boy Scouts of America headquarters in Irving, Texas, is pictured Feb. 12. The 110-year-old organization filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday as it faces a barrage of new sex abuse lawsuits.

LM OTERO/AP

MILITARY

Ghani finally wins Afghan election

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Ashraf Ghani has been declared the winner of Afghanistan's disputed presidential election on Tuesday, nearly five months after the ballots were cast.

The incumbent Ghani received 50.64% of the vote, the country's election commission announced.

Ghani called for "unity and coordination" during a press conference Tuesday night, even as his chief opponent called the election illegal.

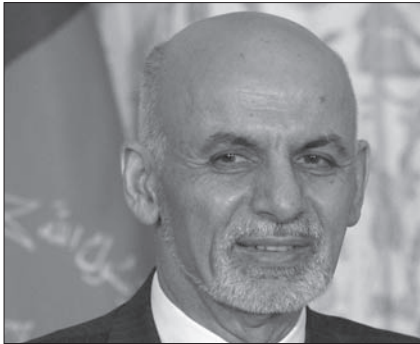
"I want to let everyone that the day of rivalry is ended," he said.

In second place was Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, who received 39.52% of the vote, followed by former warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar with 3.85%, the official results from the Sept. 28 election said.

Abdullah said he would form his own government in light of the results.

"We are the winners based on clean votes, and we declare our victory," Abdullah said, according to a New York Times report.

Faridoun Khwazam, a spokesman for Abdullah, said Tuesday that they had "walked out of the



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Incumbent Ashraf Ghani was declared the winner of Afghanistan's presidential election Tuesday, nearly five months after the vote was held. He received 50.64% of the vote, the country's election commission announced.

election process" due to what he described as the illegal behavior of the election commission.

Abdul Rashid Dostum, a powerful Uzbek political ally of Abdul-

lah, threatened last week to form a parallel government if "a fraudulent government is created."

The previous presidential election between Ghani and Abdullah

in 2014 also ended in allegations of fraud, leading then-U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to assist in negotiating a power-sharing arrangement.

The head of Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission acknowledged Tuesday that security threats and disputes in counting the votes affected the election process.

"We tried our best," said Hawa Alan Nooristani, head of the commission. "We are announcing this result with full transparency with respect to the people's vote."

Turnout during last year's ballot was about 1.8 million, or less than 20% of the country's 9.6 million registered voters. Ghani received less than a million votes.

U.S. officials said Washington donated about \$29 million to support the presidential elections. Ross Wilson, America's top diplomat in Kabul, tweeted earlier this month that "whatever the result, the United States is committed to work with the future government of Afghanistan."

Stars and Stripes reporters Zubair Babakarkhal and Phillip Walter Wellman contributed to this report. lawrence.jp@stripes.com Twitter: @jplawrence3

US, China lead spike in defense spending

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Annual military spending climbed worldwide in 2019 by the largest amount in a decade, with the U.S. far outpacing second-place China, a new study has found.

Global defense spending rose by 4% in 2019 compared to the previous year, a report released last week by the International Institute for Strategic Studies said.

Washington and Beijing both increased their military spending by 6.6%, the study said, but while the pace of growth in China "is decelerating, in line with Beijing's relative economic slowdown," the U.S. has seen military spending increases each year since Donald Trump took office in 2017.

"The US spends almost three times as much as China," the report says. "This meant that in 2019 U.S. defense investments alone were larger than China's total defense budget."

Saudi Arabia, Russia and India rounded out the top five in military spending.

In Europe, defense spending increased by 4.2% last year compared with 2018, reaching levels not seen since before the 2008 financial crisis, IISS said.

Leading the way in European spending was Germany, which has faced criticism from the U.S. for falling short of NATO guidelines that call for 2% of gross domestic product to be dedicated to military spending.

"U.S. exhortations to spend more have combined with changing threat perceptions in European states to bring about larger defense budgets," the report said.

But although German military spending increased by 9.7% between 2018 and 2019, accounting for a third of military spending growth in Europe, it still spent only around 1.3% of GDP on defense, falling short of the NATO benchmark, the report said.

Defense spending also soared in Asia, climbing by more than 50% in the last decade, the report said.

"This figure is a result of Asian countries' economic success in recent years, which has allowed them to invest more in their military capabilities," IISS said.

On a per capita basis, countries in the Middle East and North Africa region were in five of the top 10 military spending positions, with Oman spending more than \$2,500 per person and Saudi Arabia more than \$2,300 per person on defense, the report said.

Commander defends Humphreys exchange limits

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — One U.S. military retiree was buying meat in bulk at the commissary to use at his American-style restaurant off post.

The other spent more than \$100,000 at the commissary and the post exchange over just a few months and was seen dropping off the purchases at a safe house.

Both were eventually caught and banned for 10 years from U.S. installations in South Korea. The two cases were not related, according to officials at Camp Humphreys, where the infractions occurred.

New details about the unauthorized use of commissary and exchange purchases — including the second case that was not previously reported — revealed the challenges of policing duty-free purchases by American service members, family members and authorized civilians.

They also coincided with a decision by U.S. Forces Korea in September to lift commissary spending limits, which have since been reimposed.

However, garrison commander Col. Michael Tremblay said the two cases involving retirees were not linked to the ration control system.

"We did not see excessive purchases whatsoever when the spending limits were removed," Tremblay told Stars and Stripes.

"We do not have a single case of forces agreement [when the spending limits were removed

until the time they were put back on."

The garrison announced earlier this year that a military retiree accused of making excessive purchases and black marketing had been banned Dec. 10 from American bases on the divided peninsula for the next decade.

He was a retired member of the Air Force in his 50s who was operating an American-style restaurant off post with his South Korean spouse, garrison officials said last week in response to questions from Stars and Stripes.

"The retiree was purchasing the meat for his restaurant at the commissary and was anonymously reported to the Korean authorities for violation of Korean customs and other laws," said spokesman Steven Hoover.

South Korean authorities shared their information with military law enforcement, and a review of commissary records confirmed monthly purchases consistent with running a restaurant, he said.

The retiree was given a chance to address the allegations before he was "debarred from USFK facilities for 10 years," Hoover said.

Tremblay said the man had been careful to stay within his monthly limits but quickly crossed after he was called to account.

"The sales of goods are meant to be a privilege, and they're meant for soldiers and their family members according to the [status of forces agreement] and not meant to fund a local business,"

Tremblay said.

The second individual, also in his 50s, and his spouse were investigated by the Army's Criminal Investigation Command for black marketing.

A review of his records showed \$95,000 in purchases at the exchange, which is run by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, and \$16,000 in commissary purchases in just a few months, according to the garrison.

"He was under surveillance by CID and was observed purchasing items from the commissary and then dropping them off at a safe house," Hoover said.

The man was issued a "show cause notification" but "did not respond to the command and subsequently was debarred for 10 years from USFK facilities," Hoover said.

The garrison refused to identify the retirees, citing privacy concerns, so they could not be contacted for comment or responses to the allegations.

Debarment decisions are reviewed on an annual basis. The individuals also can request access as regular visitors with specific needs, but they would be carefully vetted, Tremblay said.

Patrons allowed to buy duty-free goods on U.S. bases in South Korea have long faced restrictions including commissary spending limits of \$800 per month for the main beneficiary and \$300 per month for each dependent.

USFK announced in September that it was removing those limits along with a requirement that people show ID or rations cards

before being allowed to enter base commissaries and exchanges.

It reimposed the purchase limits last month, saying studies showed that most authorized shoppers spent "well below" the allotted amounts anyway.

Tremblay said commissary sales actually decreased month to month during the period in which the limits were removed.

"The reversal was, in part, an effort to reassure the community that controls were in place after several social media posts claiming abuses that were systematically debunked, Tremblay said.

"It is an over-the-top additional measure to just ensure one extra layer of protection," he said, adding that the two recent debarments were the only cases involving black marketing and excessive purchases since he took command in June.

"We wanted to reassure the community, and again, it made no difference one way or the other."

Restrictions were initially tightened in August 2013 after the U.S. military faced rampant problems with goods purchased from base facilities being resold on the local market in South Korea.

In one of the most notorious cases, a store manager and a South Korean businessman were convicted in 2003 of smuggling some 62,000 cases of wine and beer through a tunnel dug under a U.S. military housing compound in Seoul.

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MILITARY

Inferno: Williams mastered his new weapon, was very effective at Iwo Jima

FROM FRONT PAGE

He still remembers how they slowed down and fell, their clothes ablaze.

He had no remorse at the time. The Japanese were killing Marines. They would soon kill his best friend. The battle, the war, had to be won. "I had no qualms," he said.

He moved on to the next enemy fortification. By the end of the day he had destroyed seven pill boxes, acts for which, months later, he was given the Medal of Honor for valor.

The anniversary of the start of the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima is Wednesday. The battle is probably best remembered for the Feb. 23 flag raising atop Mount Suribachi, immortalized in a news photograph and a famous statue in Arlington, Va.

The Marine Corps plans a ceremony at the Iwo Jima memorial on Feb. 27. And the National Museum of the Marine Corps, in Triangle, Va., is hosting events and a concert on Saturday and Sunday. Williams is scheduled to speak on Saturday.

But for those like him who fought there — and a few are still alive — remembering Iwo can be fruitful.

After the war he had nightmares in which he was not shooting fire, but fighting it. "I put out a lot of fires," he said.

Once, while dreaming, he terrified his wife when he suddenly jumped up, pushed their bed out of the way and began pounding on the wall at an imaginary wave of fire.

The battle of Iwo Jima came as World War II had turned decisively against the Japanese, who had suffered several major defeats, and whose homeland was being pounded by U.S. bombers.

Fought for 36 days over an apocalyptic landscape of blasted volcanic sand and rubble, the combatants used swords, pistols, rocks, rifle butts and bamboo lances as the Marines tried to dislodge Japanese soldiers from warrens of bunkers and caves.

A massive U.S. bombardment from land, sea and air had done little to rouse the enemy, so that much of the fighting was done at close quarters. Some was at arm's length. At one point, a Marine said, he was so close to the enemy that he couldn't lower his rifle to aim. Hand grenades were thrown back and forth like baseballs before they blew up. One Marine threw back seven.

Pfc. Jacklyn Lucas, 17, of Plymouth, N.C., was surprised when he suddenly saw two enemy grenades at his feet. He forced them into the sand with his rifle butt and his hands, and covered them with his body. He didn't even have the chance to shut his eyes, he wrote later.

Only one grenade went off. It blew him sky high. But he lived to be 80 and was also given the Medal of Honor.

The battle went on long after the flag was raised on Suribachi. It devoured Marines and Japanese soldiers alike. They fought over places on the island called the "Dead Valley," "Death Valley" and "Bloody Gorge." The terrain



PHOTOS BY RICH-JOSEPH FAGUN/For The Washington Post

Marine veteran Hershel "Woody" Williams, 96, is shown at his home in Ona, W.Va. Williams, who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima, was awarded the Medal of Honor for valor by President Harry Truman.

was littered with smashed banyan trees, blasted rock and mechanical and human wreckage.

At night the scene was illuminated by star shells. War correspondent Robert Sherrod said he had never seen so many dismembered soldiers. "Nowhere in the Pacific war have I seen such mangled bodies," he wrote in Life magazine. "Many were cut squarely in half. Legs and arms lay 50 feet away from any body."

'Scared half to death'

For the Marine Corps, Iwo Jima was one of its most epic battles. It was front page news across the country. A Marine general likened it to the Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg, and said it assured that there would be a Marine Corps forever. (The famous flag-raising photograph, by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal, reinsured it.)

The battle saw one of the largest Marine Corps forces ever fielded — 70,000 men — and the largest casualty toll in its history. Roughly 6,800 Marines, sailors and one Coast Guardsman were killed, according to "Investigating Iwo," a Marine Corps study published last year.

For the Japanese, Iwo Jima was home territory, about 700 miles from Japan and part of the prefecture of Tokyo. No foreigner had ever set foot on it, Newcomb wrote.

It had two airfields, which is why the Americans wanted it, and why the Japanese were determined to hold it, or exact a deadly price on the Marines trying to take it. Each Japanese soldier was instructed to kill 10 Americans.

Of the roughly 20,000 Japanese defenders, only 1,083 survived, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Iwo Jima was an old volcano, shaped like a pork chop, about five miles long and 2½ miles wide. Viewed from the air on the first day, United Press war corre-

spondent William F. Tyree said it looked like it was sizzling.

And into the inferno, on Feb. 21, 1945, "scared half to death," stepped Hershel Williams.

Now 96, Williams sat on the edge of his easy chair in this rural community outside Charleston one day last month and told of his part in the battle. A dignified man, he wore glasses, a black leather vest, gray slacks and black "Medal of Honor" cowboy boots.

Of the 27 Marines and sailors who earned the medal at Iwo Jima, he said he is the last one still living.

In the kitchen, vials of Iwo Jima sand sat on a shelf, near an old photo of President Harry Truman giving him the medal. A duplicate medal hung from its powder blue ribbon on a coat stand in his bedroom. (The original is in the Pritzker Military Museum and Library in Chicago.)

A picture of Jesus hangs on a wall, a symbol of the profound religious awakening 58 years ago in the Pea Ridge Methodist Church that Williams said ended his nightmares and transformed his life. He went on to have a career with Department of Veterans Affairs and established a successful horse farm.

He said as a Christian he now regrets having killed people.

"You were fulfilling an obligation that you swore to do, to defend your country. Any time you take a life ... there's always some aftermath to that if you've got any heart at all."

Hershel "Woody" Williams
Medal of Honor recipient



Williams wears customized cowboy boots that identify him as a Medal of Honor recipient. Of the 27 Marines and sailors who earned the medal at Iwo Jima, he said he is the last one still living.

"It's one of those things that you put in the recess of your mind," he said. "You were fulfilling an obligation that you swore to do, to defend your country. Any time you take a life ... there's always some aftermath to that if you've got any heart at all."

Quick study saved lives

Williams weighed 3½ pounds at birth and was not expected to live. His mother, Lurena, named him Hershel for the local doctor who reached the farm three days later.

By the time he was born in 1923 several of his siblings had already died in the 1918-1919 flu pandemic. His father, Lloyd, died of a heart attack when Williams was 11.

As World War II neared, he said he was impressed by the snappy "dress blues" uniform of local men who were in the Marine Corps.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, he tried to join, but the Marines said he was too short.

Later, the requirements were eased, he said, and he got in. He thought he would never have to leave the country, just defend it against invaders.

He wound up 8,000 miles from home on the island of Guadalcanal in the Pacific.

There, in early 1944, he and some other Marines received crates of flamethrowers, which they had to figure out how to operate. The weapon was mysterious. It had two tanks to hold the flammable liquid to be fired, and a third tank of compressed air to push the liquid out.

The nozzle contained a barrel with phosphorus matches that ignited the liquid as it squirted out. He said the Marines experimented with what type of flammable liquid to use and settled on a mix of diesel fuel and high-octane aviation gas. The weapon weighed 70 pounds and the tanks were virtually bullet proof, he said.

There was no guidance on how the weapon was to be used. "We had to learn that ourselves," he said.

Coming ashore on Iwo Jima a

year later, Williams said, he supervised six other flame thrower/demolition men in his "special weapons unit," he said. But as the hours of fighting passed they vanished one by one. Dead or wounded, he didn't know.

About midday on Feb. 23, he and his comrades had been stopped cold by a cluster of impenetrable Japanese fortifications called "pill boxes." Enemy gunners fired from small slits in the concrete walls and were almost impossible to hit as they mowed down Marines.

Williams said his company commander, Capt. Donald Beck, held a meeting in a shell hole to figure out what to do. He asked Williams if he thought he might make progress with his flamethrower.

Williams said he would try.

He was assigned several Marines to cover him, and a "pole charge man," armed with a long piece of wood that had an explosive taped to the end. His job was to stick the charge into the fortification and set it off after Williams had fired, "to make sure that everybody in there is dead," he said.

But the pole charge man was struck in the helmet by a bullet and knocked silly. The covering Marines were killed. And Williams was on his own. He doesn't remember a lot of what happened, but a few scenes have stayed with him.

He remembers crawling toward one pill box where he could see the barrel of a Japanese machine gun protruding from a slit. Bullets ricocheted off his flamethrower tanks. He got within 20-25 yards and "rolled a big ball of flame" at the enemy gunner, silencing him.

He recalls crawling toward another pill box when he noticed a wisp of smoke escaping from a ventilation hole in the top. He crept up, stuck the nozzle of the flame thrower into the vent and fired. "Got 'em all," he said.

He does not remember that over the course of four hours one afternoon on Iwo Jima he went back to his lines five times for fresh weapons, and five times returned to the battle.

But that's what he did.

MILITARY

Army's best-skilled soldiers to compete at Infantry Week

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Some of the Army's best-skilled soldiers will gather at Fort Benning in mid-April for a quartet of challenging annual competitions during the Georgia post's Infantry Week meant to determine the service's best Rangers, mortarmen, snipers and fighters.

Between April 14 and 20, Fort Benning will host the 2020 Best Ranger Competition, Best Mortar Competition, International Sniper Competition and the All Army Lacerda Cup Combative Competition. The Army announced last week. The competitions honor the legacies of infantrymen, who have been the Army's critical ground fighters since the dawn of the United States, said Gen. David Hodne, the Army's infantry chief and the Infantry School commandant.

"As it was in 1775, the infantry still looks at our enemy in the 'whites of their eyes,'" the general said in a statement. "So, this is a week that showcases how good our infantry is."

The competitions are each hosted by the Army's Infantry School at Fort Benning's Maneuver Center of Excellence. They are designed to determine who has the best skills under physically and mentally grueling conditions, Army officials said.

"Infantry soldiers have to be able to persevere," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Fortenberry, the senior enlisted leader for the Infantry School. "It's challenging yourself — if I'm placed into these situations for real, in a combat environment, do I have the intestinal

fortitude, the mental capacity, the physical endurance, to fight all the way through? ... We put them in a very difficult situation with a lot of physical endurance and a lot of physical hardship."

The David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition is the most grueling of the competitions — considered among the toughest military challenges worldwide, Army officials said. The three-day competition sees two-person teams of Ranger School graduates from units across the service compete in day and night exercises that test a wide variety of skills. Ranger teams go through a variety of obstacle courses, an urban-assault course, land-navigation courses, a combat wave-survival test, runs and marches on little or no sleep.

This year's Best Ranger Competition will be held April 17-20. A team from the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Ky., became the first team in the competition's 33-year history to repeat as winners. Capt. John Bergman and Capt. Michael Rose won last year after previously winning the competition in 2014 when they were assigned to the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. It was Rose's third win. He also won with another partner in 2017 while he was assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Infantry Week will kick off April 14 with the International Sniper Competition and the Combatives Competition.

The sniper event sees two-person sniper teams compete with others from across the world, including from other U.S. and partner nations' military forces and



PATRICK ALBRIGHT/Department of Defense

Competitors test their hand-to-hand fighting skills during the All Army Lacerda Cup Combatives Competition, at Fort Benning, Ga., as part of last year's Infantry Week. This year's Infantry Week will be held from April 14-20.

law enforcement agencies. The Army said it expects about 30 teams to compete in the four-day event.

"The competition will test the snipers' abilities to hit long-range targets, their camouflage skills and other techniques needed to move undetected in the field. The tests include challenges meant to stress competitors' critical thinking, according to the Army."

"That can involve, for example, having to demonstrate their ability to spot — from distances of up to 400 meters — objects as small as a pen, well-concealed inside a tree line," an Army statement said. Competitors will shoot targets at distances of 1,500 meters and possibly even farther, the service said.

The Army-only Lacerda Cup Combatives Competition will be held April 14-17 and feature 20 teams and some 180 competitors to contend for the championship in hand-to-hand fighting skills in various weight classes. Male and female competitors vie individually and as teams of eight representing each weight division — bantamweight, flyweight, lightweight, welterweight, middleweight, cruiserweight, light heavyweight and heavyweight.

The competition tests soldiers'

fighting skills in a mixed martial arts-like tournament, which sees soldiers fight in bouts of up to 10 6-minute rounds. The team competition will conclude April 17 with a combatives skills challenge meant to test competitors' fighting techniques in a combat-like scenario, according to the Army.

In one past competition, for example, teams had to clear multiple rooms while searching for and subduing enemy fighters without weapons, the Army said.

The Best Mortar Competition will be held April 15-17. It will see four-person mortar teams representing their units complete a series of tasks meant to stress their ability to hit targets with mortar fire.

The competition will begin with the new Army Combat Fitness Test, include a series of tests on 60 mm and 120 mm mortars, a land-navigation course, and a written test on their knowledge of the Army's mortar systems.

In the 2020 competition, mortar teams will demonstrate their ability to put together a quickly planned attack on an enemy in a combat situation, including using the "hand-held method," which is firing a 60 mm mortar while holding onto its tube.

The mortar competition also

will include a nighttime-occupation exercise, which will see teams demonstrate their ability to set up and secure a mortar position and possibly fire under the cover of darkness, according to the Army.

Fortenberry said the four competitions will demonstrate the critical skills infantry soldiers need to fight.

"I think that's what Infantry Week really highlights, that physical and mental toughness, and the ability to endure, and ultimately accomplishing the mission or task at hand," he said. "It takes a special caliber of person to be able to endure and be able to accomplish with those kinds of hardships that they're facing on a daily basis."

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Ariz. lawmakers to fight plan to retire some A-10 jets

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Some Arizona lawmakers intend to fight a plan by the U.S. Air Force to begin retiring parts of the nation's fleet of A-10 Thunderbolt II ground-attack jets, which are part of a major operation at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson.

The Arizona Daily Star reported that decommisioning the jets is part of an Air Force objective to drop some older, legacy weapon systems to help pay for new programs.

Republican U.S. Sen. Martha McSally, a former A-10 pilot, and Democratic U.S. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick vowed to fight the move to retire 44 of the oldest A-10s be beginning later this year.

Air Force officials unveiled plans Feb. 10 to begin discontinuing several older platforms,

including retiring some A-10s even as it refits others with new wings.

"The Air Force sustains our commitment to the Air Force's most effective close-air-support platform, the A-10, with \$161 million to continue the re-wiring and avionics upgrades," said Maj. Gen. John Pletcher, deputy assistant secretary for financial management and comptroller.

The retirement of the oldest A-10s that are the least ready for duty puts the Air Force on a path to field seven squadrons consisting of 218 modernized A-10s that will fly through the next two decades, Pletcher said.

The Air Force first unveiled plans in 2015 to begin retiring the entire A-10 fleet starting in 2018.

Members of Congress including the late U.S. Sen. John Mc-

Cain and McSally, who was in the House at the time, beat back the plan and helped push through funding to replace wings on A-10s.

McSally, who sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in a statement that she met with Air Force leaders to tell them

she did not intend to allow the 44 A-10s to be decommissioned in October.

Kirkpatrick, who is on the defense subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, said she plans to introduce a resolution asking Congress to continue A-10 funding.

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NATION

Scouts: Declining membership, sex abuse settlements strain finances

FROM FRONT PAGE

"Scouting programs will continue throughout this process and for many years to come," the Boy Scouts said in a statement. "Local councils are not filing for bankruptcy because they are legally separate and distinct organizations."

The Boy Scouts are the latest major American institution to face a heavy price over sexual abuse. Roman Catholic dioceses across the country and schools such as Penn State and Michigan State have paid out hundreds of millions of dollars in recent years.

The bankruptcy represents a painful turn for an organization that has been a pillar of American civic life for generations and a training ground for future leaders. Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout has long been a proud accomplishment that politicians, business leaders, astronauts and others put on their resumes and in their official biographies.

The Boy Scouts' finances have been strained in recent years by declining membership and sex-abuse settlements.

The number of youths taking part in scouting has dropped below 2 million, down from more than 4 million in peak years of the 1970s. The organization has tried to counter the decline by admitting girls, but its membership rolls took a big hit Jan. 1 when The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — for decades a major sponsor of Boy Scout units — cut ties and withdrew more than 400,000 scouts in favor of programs of its own.

The financial outlook worsened last year after New York, Arizona, New Jersey and California passed laws making it easier for victims of long-ago abuse to file claims. Teams of lawyers across the U.S. have been signing up clients by the hundreds to sue the Boy Scouts.

Most of the newly surfacing cases date to the 1960s, '70s and '80s; the organization says there were only five known abuse victims in 2018. The Boy Scouts credit the change to an array of prevention policies adopted since the mid-1980s, including mandatory criminal background checks and abuse-prevention training for all staff and volunteers, and a rule that two or more adult leaders be present during all activities.

In many ways, the crisis parallels the one facing the Catholic Church in the U.S. Both institutions boast of major progress over recent decades in combating abuse, whether by priests or scout leaders, but both face many lawsuits alleging negligence and cover-ups, mostly decades ago. "We are outraged that there have been times when individuals took advantage of our programs to harm innocent children," said Roger Mosby, the BSA's president and CEO. "While we know nothing can



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

James Kretschmer holds photographs of himself at age 11 and 12 during an interview in Houston. Kretschmer, who says he was molested by a Scout leader in the mid-1970s in the Spokane, Wash., area, is among many men suing The Boy Scouts of America for alleged abuse.

‘It is a shame because at its core and what it was supposed to be, the Boy Scouts is a beautiful organization. But you know, anything can be corrupted.’

James Kretschmer
suing for alleged abuse

undo the tragic abuse that victims suffered, we believe the Chapter 11 process, with the proposed trust structure, will provide equitable compensation to all victims while maintaining the BSA's important mission."

The BSA said it is encouraging all victims to come forward to file a claim in the case. A deadline for filing claims has not yet been set by the bankruptcy court, but the BSA said that would likely happen later this year.

Among other matters to be addressed in bankruptcy court: the fate of the Boy Scouts' assets; the extent to which the organization's insurance will help cover compensation; and whether assets of the Scouts' 261 local councils will be added to the fund.

"There are a lot of very angry, resentful men out there who will not allow the Boy Scouts to get away without saying what all

their assets are," said lawyer Paul Mones, who represents numerous clients suing the BSA. "They want no stone unturned."

Amid the crush of lawsuits, the Scouts recently mortgaged the major properties owned by the national leadership, including the headquarters in Irving, Texas, and the 140,000-acre Philmont Ranch in New Mexico, to help secure a line of credit.

Founded in 1910, the Boy Scouts have kept confidential files since the 1920s listing staff and volunteers implicated in sexual abuse, for the avowed purpose of keeping predators away from youth. According to a court deposition, the files as of January listed 7,819 suspected abusers and 12,254 victims.

Until last spring, the organization had insisted it never knowingly allowed a predator to work with youths. But in May, The Associated Press reported that attorneys for abuse victims had identified multiple

cases in which known predators were allowed to return to leadership posts. The next day, Boy Scouts chief executive Mike Surbaugh wrote to a congressional committee, acknowledging the group's previous claim was untrue.

James Kretschmer of Houston, among the many men suing for alleged abuse, says he was molested by a Scout leader over several months in the mid-1970s in the Spokane, Wash., area. Regarding the bankruptcy, he said, "It is a shame because at its core and what it was supposed to be, the Boy Scouts is a beautiful organization."

"But you know, anything can be corrupted," he added. "And if they're not going to protect the people that they've entrusted with the children, then shut it down and move on."

Ahead of the Chapter 11 filing, lawyers said that because of the organization's 50-state presence, as well as its ties to churches and civic groups that sponsor scout troops, a bankruptcy by the Boy Scouts would be unprecedented in its complexity. It would be national in scope, unlike the various Catholic Church bankruptcy cases, which have unfolded diocese by diocese.

"A Boy Scout bankruptcy would be bigger in scale than any other child abuse bankruptcy we've ever seen," said Seattle-based attorney Mike Pfau, whose firm is representing scores of men nationwide alleging they were abused as Boy Scouts.

Jury begins deliberations in the rape trial of Weinstein

By Tom Hays
and Michael R. Sisk
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jurors at Harvey Weinstein's rape trial began deliberating Tuesday in a case pitting accusers' often-harrowing testimony against the defense's contention that the acts were consensual, surrounded by friendly, flirtatious emails and further meetings with the film producer. The panel of seven men and five women received instructions in the law from the judge before

beginning to weigh charges that Weinstein raped a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performed oral sex on another woman, TV and film production assistant Mimi Halesy, in 2006.

Jurors will also be weighing actress Annabella Sciorra's account of a mid-1990s rape in considering charges alleging Weinstein is a sexual predator, even though the allegation is too old to be charged on its own, due to statute of limitations in effect at the time.

Other accusers testified as

part of the prosecution's effort to show he used the same tactics to victimize many women over the years.

A torrent of allegations against Weinstein in October 2017 spawned the #MeToo movement. His trial is seen as a landmark moment for the cause, but Judge James Burke has cautioned jurors that it is "not a referendum on the #MeToo movement."

Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno sent a similar message in a Newsweek essay over the weekend, drawing complaints from a

prosecutor who said she appeared to be trying to influence the jury.

Rotunno wrote that Weinstein's jurors "have an obligation to themselves and their country, to base their verdict solely on the facts, testimony and evidence presented to them in the courtroom," not critical news stories, unflattering courtroom sketches or other outside influences.

Confronted about the essay in court Tuesday, Rotunno said she was writing "about the jury system as a whole" and was not speaking to the jury in Wein-

stein's case.

Assistant District Attorney Joan Illuzzi-Orbon said Rotunno's essay was "100% inappropriate." She asked Burke to instruct the jury to ignore the piece and revoke Weinstein's bail and send him to jail because, she argued, it couldn't have been done without his permission.

Burke denied the prosecution's request, but told Weinstein: "I would caution you about the tentacles of your public relations juggernaut."

NATION



TED S. WARREN/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., makes his opening remarks as he stands with his wife Jane at a campaign event in Tacoma, Wash., on Monday.

Sanders continues attacks on Bloomberg

By JOHANA BHUIYAN
Los Angeles Times

RICHMOND, Calif. — Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders continued his attacks on rival Michael Bloomberg, accusing the billionaire of trying to buy the election and calling him out for past positions.

“Mr. Bloomberg, like anybody else, has a right to run for president,” Sanders said at a San Francisco Bay Area rally on Monday. “He does not have a right to buy the presidency. Especially after being mayor of New York and having a racist stop and frisk policy.”

Sanders’ message went over well with supporters gathered in the former home of a Ford assembly plant in Richmond, a working-class city where the median household income is \$55,102 and the majority residents are black or Latino.

“I would not vote for Bloomberg,” said Clarissa Katko, a student at Diablo Valley College said. “I’m tired of the Democratic Party compromising their ide-

als just for the sake of appearing moderate. It’s not helping the climate. It’s not helping students, it’s not helping minorities or LGBTQ people.”

The Craneway Pavilion venue, which holds 6,800 people, overflowed for the get-out-the-vote rally ahead of California’s March 3 primary. California is likely to be particularly friendly territory for Sanders when the votes are counted, given its diverse and liberal electorate; he is especially popular with Latinos and young people. He urged supporters who are independents to register as Democrats or ask for a Democratic ballot.

“This is the most consequential election in our history, and on Super Tuesday, California is voting,” Sanders said. “And I don’t have to tell any of you, you are the largest state in this country. You have the most delegates in the Democratic National Convention. And the candidate who wins here in California stands a pretty good chance of (becoming) the president of the nation.”

Bloomberg qualifies for next presidential debate

Candidate will face Dem rivals for 1st time

By KATHLEEN RONNAY
Associated Press

Billionaire Mike Bloomberg has qualified for the upcoming Democratic presidential debate, marking the first time he’ll stand alongside the rivals he has so far avoided by bypassing the early voting states and using his personal fortune to define himself through television ads.

A new NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll published Tuesday shows Bloomberg with 19% support nationally in the Democratic nominating contest.

The former New York City mayor, who launched his presidential campaign in November, will appear in Wednesday’s debate in Las Vegas alongside former Vice President Joe Biden, Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Fellow billionaire and philanthropist Tom Steyer is still hoping to qualify.

Bloomberg’s campaign said it was seeing “a groundswell of support across the country” and that qualifying for Wednesday’s debate “is the latest sign that Mike’s plan and ability to defeat Donald Trump is resonating with more Americans.”

“Mike is looking forward to joining the other Democratic candidates on stage and making the case for why he’s the best candidate to defeat Donald Trump and unite the country,” Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheehey said in a statement.

The Democratic National Committee recently changed its rules for how a candidate qualifies for the debate, opening the door for Bloomberg to be on stage and



JAMES H. WALLACE, RICHMOND (VA.) TIMES-DISPATCH/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg gives his thumbs-up after speaking during a campaign event at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery in Richmond, Va., on Saturday.

drawing the ire of some candidates who dropped out of the race for failing to make prior stages. The candidates were previously required to receive a certain number of campaign contributions to qualify, but Bloomberg, who is worth an estimated \$60 billion, is not taking donations.

The prime-time event will be a stark departure from Bloomberg’s highly choreographed campaign. He’s poured more than \$300 million into television advertising, a way to define himself for voters without facing criticism. While

he’s campaigned in more than two dozen states, he does not take questions from voters and delivers a standard stump speech that lasts less than 15 minutes, often reading from a teleprompter.

Bloomberg has barely crossed paths on the trail with his fellow Democrats. He decided to skip the first four voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina in favor of focusing on the 14 states that vote on March 3 and the contests that come afterward.

Buttigieg’s next test will be winning over minority voters

By THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

So far, Pete Buttigieg has made it look easy.

The once little-known former mayor of a midsize Midwestern city vaulted over a former vice president and several U.S. senators in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire presidential primary. The 38-year-old’s fresh face, intellect and turn-the-page message won votes across many demographic groups in the kickoff states.

Now the promise of his candidacy is colliding with the reality of the central question about his viability: Can he win among minority voters who form the critical foundation of the party’s base?

That will be tested Saturday in Nevada, with a diverse blend of Latinos and Afri-

can Americans, but especially in South Carolina, where two-thirds of the primary electorate could be black voters, the base of the Democratic Party that Buttigieg has struggled to attract.

Buttigieg’s strategy is to earn a fresh look from black and brown voters by flashing his support in the first two contests, drawing on the validation of minority leaders who have endorsed him and leveraging the personal networks of his supporters.

With the South Carolina primary rapidly approaching Feb. 29, he faces a steep climb.

“I’ve not seen any real support coming from black local officials. Pete has to make the case himself,” said state Sen. Gerald Malloy, a longtime supporter of former Vice President Joe Biden’s who has not endorsed a 2020 candidate. “He’s obviously a

tireless warrior and making the calls. The question is: Will people answer?”

The former South Bend, Ind., mayor, who has registered negligible support among black voters nationally, has been to South Carolina 10 times and has been airing ads on black radio stations in South Carolina since last fall, as well as ads in black newspapers.

This month he began a spot reflecting his call for parting with the politics of the past.

In it, Walter A. Clyburn Reed, the grandson of Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina, the highest-ranking African American in the House, and Abe Jenkins, grandson of civil rights activist Esau Jenkins, pay tribute to their forebears but call Buttigieg “a fresh start.”

Reed said college students are intrigued by Buttigieg’s Douglass Plan, aimed at

ending systemic racism, but especially are drawn to his call for a culture of belonging.

But for older black voters, both in South Carolina and Nevada, Buttigieg faces an other kind of test: whether they will vote for a gay candidate.

Joan Houston, a 63-year-old African American minister and social worker in Las Vegas, said she can’t support Buttigieg because of his sexual orientation. “I’m against homosexuality. I love everybody, but I’m against that lifestyle,” Houston said as she waited to cast her vote for Biden at an early caucus site.

As part of his effort to persuade voters like Houston, Buttigieg has turned from larger-turnout events to more intimate listening sessions that give the candidate a better sense of South Carolina black voters and then a better sense of him, aides said.

NATION

More drenching rains take aim at flooded South

Associated Press

Forecasters are expecting heavy rains again in parts of the flood-ravaged South, prolonging the misery in neighborhoods surrounded by water.

Some of the hardest-hit areas in Mississippi were under a flash flood watch Tuesday.

The National Weather Service said that rainfall amounts of up to 2 inches — with higher amounts possible in some spots — were expected to fall in a short amount of time in central Mississippi on Tuesday.

Forecasters say that could cause flash flooding and worsen ongoing river flooding in the region.

The national Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Md., is projecting the greatest likelihood of heavy rains in a band from eastern Louisiana across central parts of Mississippi and Alabama and into far west Georgia.

In Mississippi's capital city of Jackson, authorities warned hundreds of residents not to return home after devastating flooding Monday until they got the all-

clear. As the high water recedes, officials expect to find damaged roads and problems with water and sewage pipes.

A near-record rainy winter has forced authorities to release water from swollen reservoirs, potentially worsening the flooding for those living downstream.

In the Savannah, Tenn. essee, area, two houses slid down a muddy bluff just below the Pickwick Dam as the Tennessee Valley Authority was releasing more than 2.5 million gallons per second, adding to the anguish for owners of about 75 flooded properties downstream.

Hardin County Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Melvin Martin said that the landslide claimed not only two houses on Saturday after their residents got out safely, but about 100 yards of the blufftop road has also collapsed.

Meanwhile, most of the homes whose ground floors have been under water down by the river are vacation homes that were built on stilts, Martin said.



BARBARA GAUNTT, THE CLARION-LEDGER/AP

A northeast Jackson, Miss., neighborhood and Harbor Pines in Ridgeland are still under a mandatory evacuation as flooding continued Monday.

Boat captain Sam Evans says that this among the worst floods he's seen. From his vantage point navigating the Tennessee River by boat, he's watched the river banks gradually erode. He said it

was only a matter of time before the bluff gave way.

"It has slowly been eroding and it finally let go," Evans told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The area suffered a devastating

flood in 2003, but then about 14 years passed without a catastrophe, and developers got busy selling riverfront properties, Evans said. He thinks that the buyers weren't fully aware of the danger.



DONNA CAMPBELL, THE DAILY LEADER/AP

Defense attorney Katherine Poor comforts defendant Willie Cory Godbolt while his 12-year-old daughter, My'Khiaha Godbolt, testifies Monday on the third day of Godbolt's murder trial in Magnolia, Miss.

Daughter of man charged with killing 8 describes abuse

Associated Press

MAGNOLIA, Miss. — The daughter of a Mississippi man on trial in the shooting deaths of eight people testified Monday that he was abusive and beat her frequently.

My'Khiaha Godbolt took the stand at a courthouse in Magnolia, the Daily Leader newspaper reported, to testify against her father, Willie Cory Godbolt.

Godbolt, 37, is charged with capital murder, accused of fatally shooting eight people, including the deputy who arrived at his in-laws' home over the Memorial Day in 2017.

Godbolt's 12-year-old daughter told jurors that he "was very mean" and beat both her and her mother often.

She didn't look at her father during her testimony, but he kept his gaze on her.

Godbolt appeared agitated, shaking his head and pursing his lips together tightly when she described an attack on her with a plastic bat once when they were practicing baseball outside.

She testified that he became angry when she asked to take a break and beat her repeatedly with the bat. She called to relatives for help, and he responded by threatening her.

"If you ever embarrass me like that again, it's going to be worse," she quoted her father as saying.

Jurors also heard testimony from Tamayra May, the adult daughter of victim Toccara May, who hid with her 11-year-old sister in her mother's car when the shooting began. The jury listened to her 911 call, begging the dispatcher to send help, the Daily Leader reported.

Sheena May took the stand Sunday afternoon. She said she suffered his abuse for years, leaving when he beat her but coming back because he swore that he'd change.

14-year-old charged in death of student from Barnard College

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A 14-year-old has been arrested in the fatal stabbing of a Barnard College student in a park during a robbery in December, a crime that rattled New York City residents, authorities said Saturday.

Rashaun Weaver has been indicted by a grand jury and was taken into custody Friday night without incident, New York City Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said at a news conference.

Weaver, charged with second-degree murder and robbery, is the second teenager to be charged in the attack on 18-year-old Tessa Majors in a Manhattan park.

"We are confident that we have the person in custody who she's presumed not guilty," Chandler told the New York Post after Weaver's bail hearing Saturday, at which he was ordered held without bail at a juvenile facility until his arraignment Wednesday.

The Associated Press is naming the juvenile defendant because of the seriousness of the crime and because he has been charged as an adult. Weaver's attorney did not immediately return a call to Neighbor Defender Service of Harlem seeking comment.

"He's a 14-year-old child and he's presumed not guilty," Chandler told the New York Post after Weaver's bail hearing Saturday, at which he was ordered held without bail at a juvenile facility until his arraignment Wednesday.

Majors was stabbed as she walked through Morningside Park early the evening of Dec. 11. She staggered up a flight of stairs to street level and collapsed in a

crosswalk.

A criminal complaint released Saturday described Majors as struggling on a landing with three people and screaming, "Help me! I'm being robbed!"

Weaver said that Majors was "hanging onto her phone" when he tried to take it, according to the complaint.

Officials said that they have evidence from videotapes, witness identification and DNA evidence from Majors' fingernail clippings linking Weaver to the crime.

The attack, two days before the start of final exams at the women's school, troubled city residents because of its proximity to campus and its apparent randomness. Barnard is part of the Ivy League's Columbia University.

"This arrest is a major milestone on the path to justice for Tessa Majors," said District Attorney Cy Vance. A 13-year-old who was arrested Dec. 13 and charged as a juvenile with felony murder told detectives that he was at the park with other youths, but wasn't the one who stabbed Majors.

Vance said his office and the police are "in active investigation in terms of other suspects, and that will continue."

Majors, of Charlottesville, Virginia, played in a rock band and had told an editor from a newspaper internship in high school that she planned to take journalism classes in college.

NATION

DHS will waive contracting laws for border wall

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Trump administration said Tuesday that it will waive federal contracting laws to speed construction of a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Department of Homeland Security said waiving procurement regulations will allow 177 miles of wall to be built more quickly in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The 10 waived laws include requirements for having open competition, justifying selections and receiving all bonding from a contractor before any work can begin.

The acting Homeland Security secretary, Chad Wolf, is exercising authority under a 2005 law that gives him sweeping powers to waive laws for building border barriers.

"We hope that will accelerate some of the construction

that's going along the Southwest border," Wolf told Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" on Tuesday.

Secretaries under President Donald Trump have issued 16 waivers, and President George W. Bush issued five, but Tuesday's announcement marks the first time that waivers have applied to federal procurement rules. Previously they were used to waive environmental impact reviews.

The Trump administration said it expects the waivers will allow 94 miles of wall to be built this year, bringing the Republican president closer to his pledge of about 450 miles since taking office and making it one of his top domestic priorities. It said the other 83 miles covered by the waivers may get built this year.

"Under the president's leadership, we are building more wall, faster than ever before," the department said in a statement.



Eric Gay/AP

The first panels of levee border wall are seen Nov. 7 at a construction site along the U.S.-Mexico border, in Donna, Texas. The Trump administration said Tuesday that it will waive federal contracting laws to speed construction of the border wall with Mexico.

The move is expected to spark criticism that the Trump administration is overstepping its authority, but legal challenges have failed. In 2018, a federal judge in San Diego rejected arguments by California and environmental advocacy groups that the secretary's broad powers should have an expiration date. An appeals court upheld the ruling last year.

Congress gave the secretary power to waive laws in areas of high illegal crossings in 2005 in

a package of emergency spending for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and minimum standards for state-issued identification cards. The Senate approved it unanimously, with support from Joe Biden, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. The House passed it with strong bipartisan support; then-Rep. Bernie Sanders voted against it.

The waivers, to be published in the Federal Register, apply to projects that the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers will award in six of nine Border Patrol sectors on the Mexican border: San Diego and El Centro in California; Yuma and Tucson in Arizona; El Paso, which spans New Mexico and west Texas, and Del Rio, Texas.

The administration said the waivers will apply to contractors that have already been vetted. In May, the Army Corps named 12 companies to compete for Pentagon-funded contracts.

Study: Courtroom psychology tests may be unreliable

By CHRISTINA LARSON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Courts are not properly screening out unreliable psychological and IQ tests, allowing junk science to be used as evidence, researchers have concluded. Such tests can sway judges or juries and influence whether someone gets custody of a child or is eligible for bail or capital punishment.

The scientists looked at hundreds of different psychological tests used in recent court cases and found that a third of those exams weren't reviewed in the field's most prominent manuals. Of those that were reviewed, just 40% were graded favorably.

Nearly a quarter were deemed unreliable.

"There's huge variability in the psychological tools now being admitted in U.S. courts," said Tess Neal, an Arizona State University psychology professor and co-author of the study published Saturday in the journal *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*.

"There's a lot of stuff that looks like it's junk and should be filtered out by the courts, but it's not being filtered out," said Neal.

Legal challenges to the validity of psychological tests occurred in less than 3% of cases, the researchers found.

"This paper is highly significant, in part because many people's fates are determined by these tests," said Dan Simon, an expert

on law and psychology at the University of Southern California Law School, who was not involved in the research.

The new study is not the first critique of how science is used in the courts.

In 2009, the National Research Council released an extensive report on courtroom science that found that "testimony based on faulty forensic science analyses may have contributed to wrongful convictions of innocent people."

The critique prompted calls for reform, and only partial progress has been made, said Simon.

"Courts are supposed to sift out the junk science from the good science, as laid out in the federal rules of evidence" — a set of

national guidelines that require that "testimony is the product of reliable principles and methods."

"But that's not happening," said Simon.

The new study examined 876 court cases in the U.S. between 2016 and 2018, and found the most commonly used psychological test was the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, which has generally positive reviews in the professional literature.

The second most common was the Rorschach test — sometimes colloquially called the inkblot test. While the test, first developed in 1921, has its defenders, some scientists regard it as dangerously ambiguous and subjective.

Amazon founder commits \$10B to fight climate change

By JOSEPH PISANI

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Amazon founder Jeff Bezos said Monday that he plans to spend \$10 billion of his own fortune to help fight climate change.

Bezos, the world's richest person, said in an Instagram post that he'll start giving grants this summer to scientists, activists and nonprofits working to protect Earth.

"I want to work alongside others both to amplify known ways and to explore new ways of fighting the devastating impact of climate change," Bezos said in the post.

Amazon, the company Bezos runs, has an enormous carbon footprint. Last year, Amazon officials said the company would work to have 100% of its energy use come from solar panels and other renewable energy by 2030.

The online retailer relies on fossil fuels to power planes, trucks and vans in order to ship billions of items all around the world. Amazon workers in its Seattle headquarters have been vocal in criticizing some of the company's practices, pushing it to do more to combat climate change.

Bezos said in the post Monday that he will call his new initiative the Bezos Earth Fund. An

Amazon spokesman confirmed that Bezos will be using his own money for the fund.

Despite being among the richest people in the world, Bezos only recently became active in donating money to causes as other billionaires like Bill Gates and Warren Buffett have done. In 2018, Bezos started another fund, committing \$2 billion of his own money to open preschools in low-income neighborhoods and give money to nonprofits that help homeless families.

Bezos, who founded Amazon 25 years ago, has a stake in the company that is worth more than \$100 billion.



TED S. WARREN/AP

Jeff Bezos, the CEO and founder of Amazon.com, seen in 2018, said he plans to spend \$10 billion of his own fortune to help fight climate change.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Wuhan hospital director dies from coronavirus

By YANAN WANG

Associated Press

BEIJING — As a coronavirus enveloped central China's Wuhan early this year, Liu Zhiming, director of Wuhan Wuchang Hospital, mobilized all the hospital's resources to deal with the thousands of sick people arriving daily, threatening to overwhelm the local health care system.

That dedication appears to have cost him his life, with Wuhan's health bureau announcing Tuesday that he became infected and died despite "all-out" attempts to save him.

Liu is at least the seventh health worker to die of the COVID-19 disease among the more than 1,700 doctors and nurses who have become sick. His death comes as authorities are cautiously cheering a reduction in the number of new daily cases and deaths, along with the results of a study showing most people who contracted the virus experienced only mild symptoms.

China on Tuesday reported 1,886 new cases and 98 more deaths. That raised the number of deaths in mainland China to 1,868 and the total number of confirmed cases to 72,436.

"Now the prevention and control work is at a critical time," President Xi Jinping told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a phone call Tuesday, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

The outbreak has caused massive disruptions and China may postpone its biggest political meeting of the year to avoid

having people travel to Beijing while the virus is still spreading. One of the automotive industry's biggest events, China's bi-annual auto show, also is being postponed, and many sports and entertainment events have been delayed or canceled.

Despite strict rules on use of masks and safety suits, medical workers have been prominent among the victims, particularly in the early stage of the outbreak.

In announcing Liu's death, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission said he had taken part in the battle against the virus from the start and had made "important contributions in the work of fighting and controlling" the virus.

During that process, "unfortunately he became infected and passed away at 10:54 Tuesday morning at the age of 51 after all-out efforts to save him failed," the commission said.

The Hubei native had graduated from Wuhan University's School of Medicine in 1991 and went on to a career as a chief physician, neurosurgeon and administrator.

Earlier this month, public outrage was stirred by the death from the virus of Wuhan doctor Li Wenliang, who had been threatened by police after releasing word of an outbreak of an unusual respiratory illness in December before it had spread widely and the city was placed under quarantine.

Wuhan and its surrounding cities in Hubei province have accounted for the vast majority of infections and deaths, prompt-



XIAO YU, XINHUA/AP

Patients infected with the coronavirus rest at a temporary hospital converted from Wuhan Sports Center in central China's Hubei Province. Liu Zhiming, director of Wuhan Wuchang Hospital, has become the seventh health worker to die of the virus.

ing the government to enforce a travel ban that has spread to other parts of the country and now includes a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine period for anyone traveling outside their home district. Two new prefabricated hospitals have been built to deal with the overflow in Wuhan and thousands of medical staff have been brought in from other parts of the country to help.

A study by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention found more than 80% of the cases studied were mild and the number of new infections seemed to be falling since early this month. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was too early to know if the reported decline

would continue, however. "Every scenario is still on the table," he said at a news conference.

The seeming drop in the number of new cases follows a large spike last week after Hubei province began counting cases by doctors' diagnoses without waiting for laboratory test results. Health authorities there said the change was meant to get patients treated faster.

The study warned that while cases seem to have been declining since Feb. 1, that could change as people return to work and school after the Lunar New Year holidays, typically the biggest travel period for Chinese travelers.

Quarantine on cruise ship under scrutiny

By MARIA CHENG
AND MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — An extraordinary two-week quarantine of the Diamond Princess cruise ship was to end Wednesday, with thousands of passengers and crew set to disembark over the next several days in the port of Yokohama, near Tokyo.

A growing number of scientists, however, say the ship served as an incubator for a worrying new virus from China instead of a quarantine facility meant to prevent the worsening of an outbreak that has sickened tens of thousands.

As of Tuesday, 542 cases of the virus had been identified among the 3,711 quarantined passengers and crew, making the ship the site of the most infections outside of China.

The question now is: Why?

The Japanese government has repeatedly defended the effectiveness of the quarantine. But some scientists suggest that it may have been less than rigorous.



JAE C. HONG/AP

A security guard stands near the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship Feb. 13 in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

In a possible sign of lax quarantine protocols, three Japanese health officials who helped in the quarantine checks on the ship were also infected.

"I suspect people were not as isolated from other people as we would have thought," said Dr. Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at the University of East Anglia in England.

"Obviously the quarantine hasn't worked, and this ship has now become a source of infection," said Dr. Nathalie MacDermott, an outbreak expert at King's College London.

She said the exact mechanism of the virus' spread was unknown.

"We need to understand how the quarantine measures on board were implemented, what

the air filtration on board is like, how the cabins are connected and how waste products are disposed of," MacDermott said.

Hunter said the continued spread of the virus could be due to compliance problems.

He said it was "a huge disappointment" that the quarantine hadn't curbed the spread of the virus and that it was unfortunate some passengers returning to their home countries would now face a second period of isolation.

"Given how the virus has continued to spread, we have to presume everyone leaving the ship is potentially infected, and therefore they have to go through another two-week quarantine period," he said. "Not to do so would be reckless."

American passengers confined at US bases

Associated Press

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — More than 300 American cruise ship passengers, including 14 who tested positive for coronavirus, were quarantined at military bases in California and Texas on Monday after arriving from Japan on charter flights overnight.

One plane carrying cruise passengers touched down at Travis Air Force Base in Northern California just before midnight Sunday, while another arrived at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas early Monday. The passengers will remain at the bases for two weeks.

Japan's Defense Minister Taro Kono tweeted earlier that Japanese troops helped transport 340 U.S. passengers on 14 buses from Yokohama port to Tokyo's Haneda airport. About 380 Americans were on the cruise ship.

The U.S. said it arranged for the evacuation because people on the Diamond Princess were at a high risk of exposure to the new virus that's been spreading in Asia. For the departing Americans, the evacuation cuts short a 14-day quarantine that began aboard the cruise ship Feb. 5.

The State Department announced later that 14 of the evac-

uees received confirmation they had the virus but were allowed to board the flight because they had no symptoms. They were kept isolated from other passengers on the flight, the U.S. State and Health and Human Services said in a joint statement.

It's unclear which base the 14 who tested positive for the virus went to.

Officials said the evacuees who arrived at Travis Air Force Base will be housed at a different location from the more than 200 other Americans who were already quarantined on the base, in a hotel. Those people have been at the base since early February, when they arrived on flights from China.

No Travis airmen will have contact with the passengers, officials said.

Now that they're in the U.S., the cruise ship passengers must go through another 14 days of quarantine at the military facilities — meaning they will have been under quarantine for a total of nearly four weeks.

Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and Italy planned similar flights of passengers. Other governments, including Canada and Hong Kong, also will require the passengers to undergo a second 14-day quarantine.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bill would require lights on Amish horse-buggies

OH ASHLAND — A flashing light would be required on horse-drawn buggies typically used by the Amish under an Ohio proposal intended to help prevent collisions with motor vehicles.

In addition to a flashing light at all times on the highest rear part of the buggy, the bill introduced by Republican Reps. Scott Wigam of Wooster and Darrell Kick of Loudonville also would require animal-drawn vehicles to use a new type of reflective tape with higher visibility.

Current law requires a combination of still lights at dusk or at night, and reflective tape or a triangular emblem to indicate a slow-moving vehicle, the Ashland Times-Gazette reported.

Woman wrongly arrested after honeymoon trip

LA BATON ROUGE — A case of mistaken identity caused a Louisiana woman to leave her honeymoon in handcuffs and spend 36 hours in a New Orleans jail before it was sorted out.

Sara Saucier of Ponchatoula was on a cruise ship returning from a trip to Cozumel with her new husband when U.S. customs agents pounded on her door, accusing her of not returning a leased vehicle in November 2017, according to a report from WVLA-TV.

But officials had the wrong person.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office detective who filed the warrant logged the birth date of the wrong Sara Saucier.

Sheriff's deputies realized the confusion and released her.

Orangutan granted 'personhood' turns 34

FL WAUCHULA — An orangutan named Sandra, who was granted legal personhood by a judge in Argentina and later found a new home in Florida, celebrated her 34th birthday on Valentine's Day with a special new primate friend.

Patti Ragan, director of the Center for Great Apes in Wauchula, said Sandra "has adjusted beautifully to her life at the sanctuary" and has befriended Jethro, a 31-year-old male orangutan.

Prior to coming to Florida, Sandra had lived alone in a Buenos Aires zoo.

Sandra celebrated her birthday, complete with pink signs and wrapped packages. Jethro, who was once in the entertainment business, attended the party.

Police probe theft of sculptures from park

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Police are seeking the public's help in their investigation into the theft of two metal sculptures from White River State Park in downtown Indianapolis.

The two basketball-themed sculptures were stolen from their posts on the park's Environmental



CHRIS GRANGER, THE (NEW ORLEANS) TIMES-PICAYUNE, THE NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE/AP

Mardi Gras party

People in Pygmalion costumes parade through the streets of Uptown New Orleans during Mardi Gras celebrations over the weekend.

Trail, Indiana State Capitol Police Detective Charles Meneely said in a news release.

The black cold-rolled-steel sculptures depict a monarch butterfly and a bird and nest.

Juvenile arrested after fleeing from attack

CA LOS ANGELES — A juvenile who fled to Armenia after he allegedly punched a man during a road rage incident, leaving the victim in a coma, was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, Los Angeles police said.

The juvenile was wearing brass knuckles when he struck the man on New Year's Day, police said. The victim has been hospitalized since the alleged attack, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The juvenile was in a black Jeep seen driving erratically behind another vehicle in the Valley Glen neighborhood, the newspaper said.

Witness video recorded from a nearby car shows the juvenile exiting the Jeep and striking the driver of the other vehicle. The man collapses to the ground as the Jeep's occupants flee.

Man: Scammer copied license, racked up fees

NC RALEIGH — A North Carolina man said a

THE CENSUS

13

under the influence, WSAW-TV reported. The vehicles were all unoccupied and parked.

scammer obtained a copy of his custom license plate, causing him to receive toll bills from Virginia that totaled close to \$500.

At first, Ronnie Dickerson thought the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles had given someone else his custom plate. But, the NCDMV confirmed it had not given anyone else the personalized tag.

Dickerson was able to prove to officials that the vehicle wasn't his and the toll fees were waived.

Inmate gripe about no toilet paper dismissed

DE WILMINGTON — A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by a Delaware prisoner in inmate who complained about running out of toilet paper.

The judge ruled that the lawsuit by Isaac Pierce was frivolous. The ruling contains references to several other court decisions regarding toilet paper, or the lack of it, in prisons. Those rulings generally concluded that, while a temporary lack of toilet paper

might be unpleasant, it does not violate an inmate's rights.

Police: ATV driver kills dog then leaves scene

CT DANBURY — Police in Connecticut are looking for the operator of an all-terrain vehicle they said struck and killed a dog before driving from the scene.

The dog was killed in the yard of its Danbury home when the operator of the quad-style vehicle apparently lost control.

The dog was a 4-year-old husky-Labrador retriever mix.

There are several trails in the area used by ATVs and dirt bikes and police think the operator lives in the area.

Trooper saves man from being trampled by a bull

AZ BENSON — An off-duty Arizona Department of Public Safety trooper is being credited with saving the life of a

man who was being trampled by a bull.

DPS officials said Trooper Brandon Jacquez was driving home to the town of Benson, southeast of Tucson, when a bull attack was called out.

Jacquez recognized he was the closest to the scene, so he quickly drove there.

Once he arrived, he saw an older man being trampled and gored by a bull as neighbors attempted to help.

Jacquez and a neighbor distracted the bull before the trooper fatally shot it.

Roach problem closes college's student center

GA SAVANNAH — Student complaints of being served moldy bread and finding bugs in mac and cheese at a campus food court led Savannah State University to close its student center, where health inspectors later reported finding "many dead roaches" in the kitchen.

The university said in a statement to news outlets that its student union, "is in the final stages of cleaning and maintenance" and could reopen within the week.

"There were many dead roaches throughout the kitchen on floors near drains, behind equipment and on some food prep surfaces," the report on the food court inspection said.

From wire reports

WORLD



MARCO UGARTE/AP

Demonstrators march to protest the murder of Fatima, a 7-year-old girl who was abducted from the entrance of the Enrique C. Rebsamen primary school and later killed, in Mexico City on Monday.

Killing of 7-year-old stokes anger in Mexico over femicides

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The killing of a 7-year-old girl on the southern outskirts of Mexico City has stoked rising anger over the brutal slayings of women, including one found stabbed to death and skinned earlier this month.

The city prosecutor's office said Monday that investigators identified a body found over the weekend as that of Fatima, a grade-school student who was taken by a stranger on Feb. 11. By law, prosecutors don't give the full name of victims.

Her body was found wrapped in a bag and abandoned in a rural area on Saturday and was identified by genetic testing. The cause of death has not been released. Five people have been questioned in the case, and video footage of her abduction exists.

Mexico City prosecutor Ernestina Godoy said the girl's murder would not go unpunished. The investigation is focused on identifying the woman seen walking away from the school with the girl.

Guillermo Anton Godínez, the girl's grandfather, said Monday that his daughter arrived at the school 15 or 20 minutes after the woman led the girl away. He added that his granddaughter had left the school wearing her uniform, but the woman had put a green shirt and pants on her.

His daughter was initially told that authorities couldn't begin searching for 72 hours after her disappearance, he said. The prosecutor's office, however, said that an Amber alert was issued about the girl's disappearance the same day that relatives reported her missing.

Prosecutor spokesman Ulises Lara offered a \$100,000 reward for information on the person who picked her up when she left

school.

Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum personally accompanied the girl's mother during the legal paperwork involved in filing charges and picking up the girl's body.

"We are going to accompany the family, and justice must be done," Sheinbaum said.

The girl's mother, Maria Magdalena Anton, appeared angry and distraught outside prosecutors' offices.

"Justice has to be done, for my daughter and for all women," she said.

She said that investigators made the family wait for hours and travel across the city to even file a missing person report. Other relatives accused police of not acting quickly enough.

"She could have been found alive, but nobody paid attention to us," said Sonia Lopez, the girl's aunt.

Lopez also said there had been longstanding questions about the mother's ability to care for her children, but that city health and family welfare agencies had not helped them.

Many relatives and commentators called for urgent changes to primary school safety protocols. At government schools in urban areas of Mexico, children simply walk out on the street after classes end. Although their parents are often waiting outside, it is not the school's responsibility to make sure that someone is waiting to meet them.

The abduction and killing of the child came just two days after Ingrid Escamilla, a young Mexico City resident, was allegedly murdered by a boyfriend.

The man, who has been arrested and purportedly confessed to killing Escamilla with a knife, mutilated her body and flushed

part of her corpse into the sewer.

Indignation grew after some local media published horrific photos of the skinned corpse, apparently leaked by city police officers.

Protesters read a statement Friday saying, "It enrages us how Ingrid was killed, and how the media put her body on display."

On Monday afternoon, the Interior Ministry said in a statement that media should not publish personal details or images of children in relation to a crime whether they are the authors, victims or witnesses.

The Mexican capital has seen a series of angry demonstrations over killings of women over the past few months, including several in which protesters have vandalized major monuments and buildings.

The killings have proved to be a politically difficult issue for President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who said that protests over the killings were an attempt to distract attention from his social programs.

Last week, Lopez Obrador showed little patience for those who questioned him about the government's commitment to fighting violence against women.

"This issue has been manipulated a lot in the media," the president said Monday, adding that "I don't want the issue just to be women's killings."

On Monday, Lopez Obrador defended his record, saying "we are working so that there won't be any more women's killings."

But referring to protests last week over Escamilla's killing in which demonstrators spray-painted the doors and walls of the colonial-era National Palace, the president said, "They shouldn't paint our doors and walls."

Death toll includes mostly children, Yemeni rebels say

By AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — At least three dozen people, including 26 children and six women, were killed in airstrikes by Saudi-led forces in Yemen over the weekend, Yemen's Houthi rebels said, raising the death toll.

The Iranian-backed rebels have said that the Saudi-led coalition carried out retaliatory airstrikes early on Saturday in the mountainous northern province of Jawf, after their fighters shot down a coalition warplane there the previous day.

The coalition said it was investigating "possible collateral damage" following an operation to rescue the Tornado fighter jet's two-man crew. It said that the whereabouts of the two pilots remains unknown.

The Saudi-led coalition of mostly Arab states has been fighting the rebels since early 2015, when it intervened to restore the collapsing authority of the internationally recognized government headed by Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

A statement by the Houthi-run health ministry Monday said that the airstrikes hit civilian houses in the al-Maslub district. The attack killed at least 35 people and wounded 23 others, including 18 children and a woman.

The Saudi-led coalition has said that some of the injured have been transported to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment.

Local residents said that the coalition was targeting Houthi fighters, who had taken cover in a residential area near the crash site.

At least three houses were destroyed in the coalition airstrikes, killing all people inside, they said.

Col. Turki al-Maliki, a spokesman for the coalition, said Saturday that the pilots managed to eject safely before the crash. He said that the Houthi rebels were responsible for the pilots' "life and safety."

The weekend crash and airstrikes came amid heavy clashes between Yemeni government forces and Houthis in the provinces of Marib, Jawf and Sanaa. Hundreds of people, mostly fighters, were killed in the recent clashes that have also forced at least 4,700 families to flee, according to the U.N.

The war has killed over 100,000 people, including fighters and civilians, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, which tracks violence reports in Yemen. The war also created the world's worst humanitarian crisis, leaving millions suffering from food and medical shortages.

Turkey seeks nearly 700 arrests over links to US-based cleric

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkish prosecutors have issued detention warrants against 695 people who are suspected of being linked to the United States-based Muslim cleric blamed by Turkey for a failed coup attempt in 2016, state media reported Tuesday.

The warrants were issued as part of a crackdown on the network led by cleric Fethullah Gulen that continues nearly four years after the attempted coup. Turkish authorities maintain that the group remains a national security threat.

Anadolu Agency said that prosecutors were actively seeking the detention of 467 alleged Gulen followers who are suspected of cheating in a police superintendent promotion examination in 2009. Police were conducting simultaneous raids in 67 provinces across Turkey, the agency

reported.

Further warrants were also issued against 157 non-commissioned military officers in 43 provinces and 71 Justice Ministry personnel, Anadolu reported. At least 101 of the military personnel were still on active duty in the Air Force or Navy.

On July 15, 2016, a group of officers attempted a coup to overthrow Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Some 250 people were killed and more than 2,000 were injured during the failed attempt.

Some 77,000 people have been arrested, and around 130,000 others, including military personnel, have been dismissed from state jobs in the crackdown on Gulen's network since the coup.

Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in the U.S. since 1999, denies involvement in the coup attempt.

WORLD

UK issues alerts as storm-swollen rivers continue to surge

Associated Press

LONDON — Residents in central England and Wales braced Tuesday for more flooding as rivers peaked in the wake of a weekend storm that brought up to 6 inches of rain to an already waterlogged region.

Environment agencies in England and Wales on Tuesday declared 10 severe flood warnings, meaning that there is an immediate danger to life, for the rivers Severn Trent, Wye and Lugg. More than 180 less severe flood warnings were also in place.

Storm Dennis — the second major storm of the winter — blew through the United Kingdom on Saturday and Sunday, bringing wind gusts of up to 90 mph and heavy rain that flooded roads, railways, homes and businesses. The fierce weather upended travel plans for thousands of British families trying to get away on the mid-winter school break.

It turned rivers such as the Severn and the Wye, which normally meander through picturesque countryside, into raging torrents. The River Wye reached the highest level ever recorded in the central England town of Hereford.

Dave Throup, a manager in the region for the Environment Agency, tweeted, "I've seen things today I would not have believed ... This is not normal flooding, we are in uncharted territory."

The storm has killed at least three people in Britain, including a 55-year-old woman who was swept away by floodwaters in the central English town of Tenbury.

The storm also left a trail of flooding and power outages across northern Europe, including in southwestern Sweden. In Denmark, 100 people who had been evacuated late Monday due to fears that a levee might collapse began returning home Tuesday.



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

A satiric carnival float depicting the leaders of China, United Kingdom, Russia, USA and North Korea as puppets is watched by a reveller during a preview in a hall in Cologne, Germany, on Tuesday.

Carnival revelers poke fun at world leaders in Germany

Associated Press

MAINZ, Germany — A victorious British Prime Minister Boris Johnson with a grim-looking Queen Elizabeth II standing behind him, a bare-chested Russian President Vladimir Putin holding a remote control to steer Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan atop a tank and a triumphant United States President

Donald Trump playing the harp like Roman Emperor Nero.

All of these controversial leaders have come together at for a provocative tryst at the traditional Mainz carnival celebrations in western Germany.

The Mainzer Carnival Association presented the colorful, oversized figures for a first glimpse Tuesday before they entertain crowds on floats next week dur-

ing the traditional street parade in the western city.

Mainz, Cologne and Duesseldorf, the three big cities along the Rhine River, are all famous for their politically provocative floats. During Carnival, dubbed the "fifth season of the year" before the start of the Christian season of Lent, the common people are traditionally allowed to make fun of those in power.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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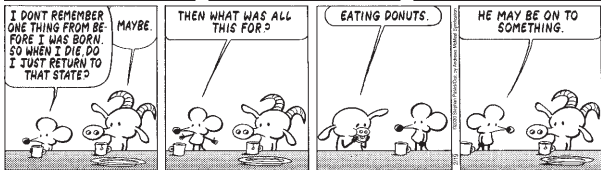
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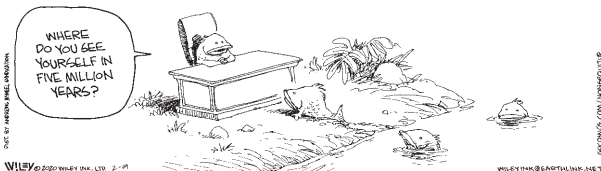
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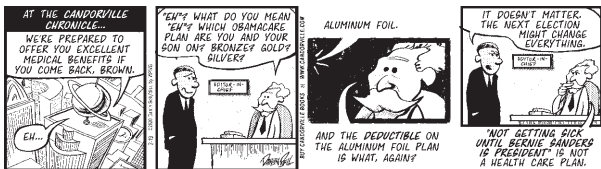
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Non Sequitur



Candorville



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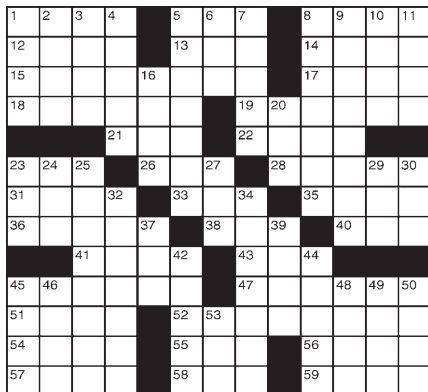
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Piece of work
- 5 Scoundrel
- 8 Vacationing
- 12 Take it easy
- 13 Caustic cleaner
- 14 Grown-up nits
- 15 Pub game
- 17 Fresh
- 18 Shopping binges
- 19 Convent leader
- 21 Season opener?
- 22 Salty waters
- 23 Golf's Ernie
- 26 School support org.
- 28 Gather
- 31 King of the jungle
- 33 Use a straw
- 35 iPhone

DOWN

- 56 Peacekeeping org.
- 57 Seize
- 58 Comic DeLuise
- 59 Love letter abbr.
- 23 Yellowstone grazer
- 24 Lucy of "Elementary"
- 25 Old-time fountain worker
- 27 Football filler
- 29 Resort
- 30 Tax form ID
- 32 "Sorry, Charlie!"
- 34 Apparition
- 37 Command to Fido
- 39 Mayberry boy
- 42 Cut wood
- 44 Rural buildings
- 45 Puglist's weapon
- 46 Oaxaca drink
- 48 Talon
- 49 Teeny bit
- 50 Cranny
- 53 Latin 101 word

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-19

CRYPTOQUIP

HOAU GUCNBTC WV VMGUTWUL

BU MOA LKBFUT GUCHOAKA

WU ZCGUZGK, W'T VGC

MOAC GKA BU MAKKG NFKZG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF COMIC ACTRESS TINA MOVED TO THE SOUTHWEST, SHE WOULD MOST CERTAINLY LIVE IN SANTA FEY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals N

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Adams would have defended Gitmo detainees

By AARON SHEPARD
Special to the Los Angeles Times

“So you ... defend terrorists?” This is a question that my fellow military commissions defense attorneys and I are often asked. When friends and family members wonder about the work I do representing a detainee held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, I usually offer something quippy about defending “constitutional values” or “the rule of law,” and quickly move on.

After all, talking about our clients, who have been tortured and imprisoned for years, isn't standard fare for casual family gatherings, not to mention for a nuanced view of their legal predicaments.

But it's important for Americans to understand the facts of what happened to the 40 men still held at Guantanamo Bay, a prison that has been open since 2002. As President John Adams once said, “facts are stubborn things.” And the trials to determine those facts must be carried out justly, regardless of our passions. Defending those men in their trials, and discussing our work openly, is a responsibility we embrace, and there is no better place to start that discussion than with torture.

Growing up in a Jack Bauer-sized world, many of us have developed an indelible belief that torture works. There's a nuclear bomb in Los Angeles, so Kiefer Sutherland has to put a knife through the kneecap of the bad guy, threaten their family, and after some intense moments, the terrorist will give up the location of the bomb.

Of course, in the real world, it doesn't work like that. Aside from questions of ethics and morality, torture is illegal. It's also ineffective. This was the bipartisan conclusion in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence report of 2014, based in part on studies done by the CIA itself, which previously eschewed torture in favor of more reliable methods of intelligence.

Apart from being ineffective, torture is often counterproductive. Many of the detainees subjected to it simply lied to get it to stop. For instance, a detainee named

We cannot turn away from the fundamentals of our justice system — especially when we're confronting its most difficult and trying cases.

Abu Zubaydah, a Guantanamo detainee who was subjected to lengthy torture, gave false statements about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction that were subsequently used to justify the 2003 U.S. invasion of the country.

However, the legal issues we deal with as defense lawyers go far beyond torture. Take the case of Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, a Saudi accused of masterminding the attack on the guided missile destroyer USS Cole in 2000. In addition to torture, his case so far has involved: 1) the government having secret listening devices in defense attorneys' spaces; 2) the trial being forced to go forward despite having an unqualified defense attorney; 3) the judge trying to get a job with the Justice Department while overseeing the case, resulting in a federal appeals court throwing out more than three years of rulings; and 4) confidential communications between the judge and defense attorneys being inadvertently turned over to the prosecution. And that's just from one detainee's case.

Others have waited nearly two decades without their day in court. One such person is my client, a Malaysian named Nazir Bin Lep, who has been held in black sites and Guantanamo for over 16 years. For the first three, he was severely tortured. He is suspected of having been tangentially involved in attacks in Indonesia in 2002 and 2003, but has never been charged. While these were tragic and devastating crimes, there is no evidence that he planned or carried them out, or even that he knew anything about them. Furthermore, he had

nothing to do with 9/11, the USS Cole bombing or any attack on the United States.

Earlier this year, the U.S. government looked ready to finally charge him by proposing a classified, secret process. But a federal judge in October found that the proposal would “irreparably taint” any future trial, and ordered the government to cease and desist. As a result, Bin Lep's status remains unchanged, and he remains shackled in a cell without an end in sight.

To be clear, defense attorneys certainly don't condone terrorism or criminal acts. Many of us were personally affected by 9/11, or had friends and family members who were. But merely being charged with a crime does not make one a criminal, nor do criminal acts justify abridging inalienable legal rights. Like my client, most of the men in Guantanamo have never had any charges filed against them.

The historic significance of these cases cannot be overstated. Adams, for one, was personally invested in work like ours. As a young lawyer with unbridled ambition, he chose to defend the British soldiers accused of committing the Boston Massacre. Adams did this despite the risk to his political aspirations, financial well-being and the very safety of himself and his family. In the end, the soldiers were acquitted of murder by a jury of colonists, and in later life Adams said his work on this case was one of his greatest services to his country because it upheld the rule of law in that moment of political crisis.

We cannot turn away from the fundamentals of our justice system — especially when we're confronting its most difficult and trying cases. Our principles, as exhibited by Adams in his defense of the British soldiers, must not be abandoned now.

So do we “defend terrorists”? Arguably, but that's not the right question. We defend our clients, and in doing so, defend the essential values of the American legal system.

Aaron Shepard is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps. The views expressed do not reflect the views of the Department of Defense, the U.S. government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.

What exactly is in the details of the Taliban truce?

By ELI LAKE
Bloomberg News

In the last year, Congress has begun to claw back its constitutional power to declare war. A possible U.S. truce with the Taliban will show whether the legislative branch is willing to reassert its peace-making power as well.

The latest example of Congress' renewed interest in its war-making authority is its U.S. to 45 last week in the Senate, limiting the president's ability to attack Iran unless he gets explicit authorization from Congress. This followed a vote last year to end U.S. military participation in the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

These votes are important correctives to do the president's bidding, its war-making power to presidents of both parties. News that the U.S. and the Taliban are close to reaching a seven-day truce and a possible agreement for the withdrawal of most forces from Afghanistan presents an opening for Congress to exert some control over the peace process — which in this case amounts to a dangerous foreign policy.

The first step is not necessarily asserting the Senate's right to approve an eventual peace treaty. Rather, it is to gain access to the entire agreement that is now being negotiated in Doha, Qatar, between U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and representatives of the Taliban.

According to Time magazine, that final agreement will contain several secret an-

If the provisions of the agreement that require the Taliban to break with terrorism are not public, then how much are they really honest?

nexes. Usually, such appendices are ancillary to the primary agreement. In this case, they are the most important elements.

The article says that one annex will lay out the terms for how U.S. counterterrorism forces can remain in Afghanistan to hold back al-Qaida and other jihadi groups. One, according to the magazine, will contain the Taliban's “denouncement of terrorism and violent extremism.” Another annex will contain the mechanism for monitoring how all sides in the war are adhering to the ceasefire while negotiations proceed between the Taliban and the elected Afghan government.

All of these are vitally important for the eventual truce to be a real peace agreement instead of simply terms of surrender for the Afghan government. The most crucial element, however, will be whether the Taliban themselves commit to severing their longstanding ties to al-Qaida.

not ready. In September, for example, U.S. and Afghan forces reportedly killed a senior al-Qaida member during a raid in Taliban-controlled Helmand province. Last month, Long War Journal reported that the Pentagon spiked a press release announcing the death because “it would complicate future negotiations with the Taliban.”

“You can't pretend the Taliban is willing to break with al-Qaida when they are still deeply in bed with one another,” says Tom Joscelyn, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and senior editor of the Long War Journal. His point raises a larger question: If the provisions of the agreement that require the Taliban to break with terrorism are not public, then how much are they really honest?

Here is where Congress can reclaim its oversight function. At the very least, representatives and senators can give the American people an honest assessment of any truce with the Taliban.

It may well be that most Americans are willing to live with an unconditional withdrawal from a war the U.S. has waged for 18 years with little to show for it. If that is the case, however, then Congress should say so. Surrender camouflaged as peace is little more than an ignoble lie.

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior editor of the Washington Times for The Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for The Washington Times, the New York Sun and UPJ.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Collision course for No. 1 Bears, No. 3 Jayhawks

Saturday's game could clinch top seed

DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

Baylor and Kansas just keep winning, setting up a monumental showdown Saturday between the ranked Bears and No. 3 Jayhawks that could help decide not only the Big 12 title but the No. 1 overall seed for the NCAA Tournament.

The two teams were separated again by Gonzaga in the latest college basketball poll from The Associated Press on Monday. The Bears (23-1) had 48 first-place votes from the 63-member media panel, while the Bulldogs (26-1) had 14 first-place nods and the Jayhawks (23-3) had the only remaining first-place vote.

"The best we could be right now is being the No. 1 overall seed in the tournament. We're No. 2," said Kansas coach Bill Self, whose team beat Iowa State Monday night and West Virginia and Oklahoma last week.

"The reason we're not No. 1 is Baylor beat us on our home floor," Self said. "They deserve it. I'm not looking at it like we haven't done as well as our record because we're in second place. I'm looking at it like we played pretty good that day and got beat by a better team, and now we have a chance to get them back."

The Bears have business to handle before they meet the Jayhawks on Saturday, though. Baylor will be visiting Oklahoma on Tuesday night.

If the Bears win, it would set up one of the biggest games in the history of the Ferrell Center.

"I think it's a tribute to the players, their belief," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "We've been operating under joy ... (and) focusing one game at a time and we'll keep doing that."

San Diego State (26-0) remained the nation's last unbeaten team and was No. 4 in the latest poll, while Dayton (23-2) climbed one spot to fifth after wins over Rhode Island and Massachusetts and a rough week for then-No. 5 Louisville.

"I told our team, 'Let's get greedy. Let's play for perfection,'" Aztecs coach Brian Dutcher said. "If we're this close, we might as well play for a perfect regular season. ... Let's do something special."

That's exactly what the Flyers are trying to do, too.

"We're trying to win a national championship," Dayton guard Jalen Crutcher said. "We feel like

that there's no team in the country we can't beat. We feel like we can go and win a national championship, and we talk about that a lot."

The Cardinals lost to Georgia Tech and Clemson to plummet to No. 11, but they weren't the only ranked team to lose to an unranked foe on Saturday. Auburn fell at Missouri, Seton Hall lost to Providence, Butler lost at Georgetown, Illinois lost at Rutgers, Houston fell at SMU, Texas Tech fell at Oklahoma State and LSU was beaten on the road by Alabama.

Throw in then-No. 14 West Virginia's loss to Baylor and nine ranked teams were beaten. Eight lost to unranked opponents, the most in a single day this season.

In and out

BYU climbed into the poll at No. 23 after wins over Loyola Marymount and San Diego, and now faces Santa Clara on Thursday night before a showdown with the second-ranked Zags. The Cougars were followed by Arizona at No. 24 and Ohio State at No. 25, teams that were in the poll earlier this season before dropping out.

Illinois plummeted out of the poll after losing to Michigan State and Rutgers. Texas Tech also dropped out, along with LSU, which lost at Alabama during a brutal Saturday for the nation's Top 25 teams.

Climbing and falling

Creighton made the biggest leap this week, rising from No. 23 to 15th after beating then-No. 10 Seton Hall and DePaul. Penn State moved up four spots to crack the top 10 at No. 9, while Oregon climbed from No. 17 to 14 and Kentucky moved up two spots to round out the top 10.

Louisville's weak week culminated in a drop of six places to No. 11, while Seton Hall also absorbed a pair of losses and fell to No. 16. West Virginia lost to Baylor and Kansas but was only penalized three places and remained No. 17.

Mid-major watch

There are mid-major programs poised to enter the Top 25. Stephen F. Austin quietly improved to 22-3 and is one of the first teams out, while Northern Iowa (22-4), Utah State (21-7) and Rhode Island (19-6) are getting plenty of love from voters.



PHOTOS BY EVERT NELSON, THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL/AP

Kansas' David McCormack drives through Iowa State defenders. McCormack had 10 points, one of five Jayhawks in double-figures in a 91-71 defeat of the Cyclones Monday in Lawrence, Kan.

Roundup

Dotson's three-point barrage helps Kansas crush Iowa State

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Devon Dotson had watched Iowa State torch the nets in Allen Fieldhouse long enough, so the do-everything Kansas guard began raining down three-pointers and getting to the rim in what started out as a one-man scoring showcase.

The rest of the third-ranked Jayhawks eventually followed his lead.

Dotson finished with six three-pointers and 29 points, but he wound up being just one of five Kansas players in double-figures scoring, helping the Jayhawks to a 91-71 victory over the Cyclones on Monday night to keep pace in the Big 12 race.

"When they're hitting shots like they did, I mean, yeah, we've got to respond," Dotson said. "I think every game we try to knock down our shots, but this game, people were rolling."

Ochai Agbaji finished with 14 points, Udoka Azubuike and Christian Braun scored 13 apiece, and David McCormack had 10 points to send Kansas (23-3, 12-1 Big 12) into a pivotal rematch with No. 1 Baylor.

"We have a couple days to get rested for obviously the biggest game of the year," Jayhawks coach Bill Self said.

Prentiss Nixon scored 20 points, Matt Jacobson had 13 and Rasir Bolton 12 for slumping Iowa State (11-15, 4-9), which has lost 14 of its last 15 games at the Plog and still has not won a road game this season.

The Cyclones' frustrating season was summed up by the first half, when they did just about everything right and still trailed 50-40.

Iowa State was 9-for-12 from



Kansas guard Devon Dotson celebrates after sinking a three-point shot. Dotson had 29 points in the victory, including six three-pointers.

beyond the arc in a torrid display of shooting, and at one point connected on three-pointers on three consecutive trips down floor. The Cyclones committed nine turnovers but generally held onto the ball well, and they also hung tough on the glass against a team with a massive advantage in both size and depth.

Maybe a little better defense would have helped.

As good as Iowa State was on offense, the Jayhawks were even better. They kept pounding the ball inside to the 7-foot Azubuike, who dunked his way toward 10 first-half points, and that opened things up outside. Dotson had 15 points by the break, and Braun came off the bench to hit a trio of three-pointers and score 13 points in just 12 minutes.

"The first half I thought offen-

sively we gave ourselves a chance to be in the game," Cyclones coach Steve Prohm said. "You get 40 in a half at this place, you'd think you're in pretty good shape."

Iowa State tried to mount a comeback in the second half by getting the ball to Solomon Young, who spent most of the first half on the bench with two fouls. But the big forward was hounded every time he touched the ball and never seemed to get an open look, and that forced the Cyclones into launching up another barrage of three-pointers.

They also slapped on a full-court press, but crisp passing and Dotson's smooth ball-handling easily broke it down.

The league's leading scorer snuffed out any chance of a comeback midway through the second half. Dotson knocked down a bucket, stripped Nixon near mid-court and took it to the rim for a three-point play, then curled in a three-pointer from right in front of the Kansas bench to make it 78-55 with just over nine minutes to go.

Xavier 77, St. John's 74: In a game they couldn't afford to lose, the visiting Musketeers rallied just in time and got the biggest shot of the night from a freshman.

Zach Freemantle made the go-ahead basket with 10.4 seconds left and added two late free throws as Xavier scored the final eight points.

"We're very fortunate," Musketeers coach Travis Steele said. "We did not play well tonight and St. John's had a lot to do with that."

Paul Scruggs had 16 points to lead Xavier (17-9, 6-7 Big East Conference).

NHL

Kucherov lifts Lightning in overtime

Tampa Bay tops Avs for 11th straight win

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

DENVER — Things are going so well for the Tampa Bay Lightning that the team is starting to judge the quality of their wins.

"I don't know. I don't think we played well today ... We have to improve a lot in our game because we have a lot of good teams ahead of us. I don't think we had a good effort today," Nikita Kucherov said after stealing the puck from Nathan MacKinnon and scoring in overtime for a 4-3 victory over the Colorado Avalanche on Monday night.

Kucherov's game-winner 3:03 into overtime sent Tampa Bay to a franchise-record 11th straight win and suddenly slumping Colorado to its third straight loss.

"Their best player gets a breakaway and I wasn't able to stop it," Avalanche goaltender Pavel Francouz said. "Their best player gets the puck on the blue line, he was racing with Nathan. He kind of opened me up a little bit and he shot it 5-hole."

Kucherov was disappointed in the Bolts' luck possession but said, "We had a great goalie today," praising the play of Curtis McElhinney. "He had a heck of a game getting hit but he stuck with it. He made some huge saves for us."



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Tampa Bay Lightning right wing Nikita Kucherov, center, scores the winning goal on Colorado Avalanche goaltender Pavel Francouz, right, after driving past center Nathan MacKinnon. The Lightning won 4-3 in overtime on Monday in Denver.

The game between two of the league's top teams had the feel of a playoff showdown complete with momentum swings, hard hits and short tempers.

"It's not a team we play often, but when you have a good team like that and both teams want to win, it's going to boil over," said Cameron Gaunce, who scored one of Tampa Bay's three goals in the second period.

Gaunce scored 16 seconds after Alex Killorn's goal and the Lightning built a 3-1 lead before Colorado came back to force overtime despite losing forward Mikko Rantanen to a left shoulder injury — "He'll be out weeks," A's coach Jared Bednar said.

Steven Stamkos also had a goal for Tampa Bay in the second period that erased a 1-0 deficit, and McElhinney stopped 24 shots

despite getting bowled over by Colorado's J.T. Compher midway through the third period, sparking the first of two brawls in a tense ending.

McElhinney crumpled awkwardly and lay motionless for a moment before rising slowly. He was visited by a trainer but stayed in the game. Compher was called for interference.

Roundup

Golden Knights stymie Ovechkin, Caps

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Max Pacioretty scored his team-high 27th goal and the Vegas Golden Knights beat the Washington Capitals 3-2 on Monday.

Nick Kovich and Reilly Smith also scored for the Golden Knights, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 24 saves.

Alex Ovechkin remained stuck on 698 career goals after being held without a point for the fifth consecutive game, his longest drought of the season.

"I'm sure he'll get it soon," said Fleury, who earned his 462nd win to move three victories ahead of Lundqvist for fifth on the career list. "I'm just happy I'm not gonna be the goalie on SportsCenter, 48 times showing that goal."

It was Vegas' third straight victory, and it improved to 7-3-2 since coach Pete DeBoer took over for Gerard Gallant, who was fired on Jan. 15.

"I like how we're defending. I think we're going to be able to score by an issue," DeBoer said. If we can defend well and Flower plays the way he's played we got a chance to win every night."



ISAAC BREKKE/AP

Capitals forward Alex Ovechkin, left, follows a shot as Golden Knights goalie Marc-Andre Fleury defends during the third period on Monday in Las Vegas. Fleury kept Ovechkin off the scoreboard, leaving the Washington captain stuck on 698 career goals.

The Capitals have lost four of five and are on the brink of dropping to fourth place in the Eastern Conference, while Vegas moved tie with Edmonton.

T.J. Oshie scored both goals for the Capitals in the third period. Braden Holtby made 26 saves.

Flames 6, Ducks 4: Andrew Mangiapane led three goals and an assist, and host Calgary rallied

past Anaheim.

Matthew Tkachuk had a goal and an assist for the Flames, who trailed 3-1 early in the third period. Sam Bennett and Sean Monahan also scored. Cam Talbot made 26 stops for Calgary.

Coyotes 2, Islanders 1: Antti Raanta stopped 25 shots, Connor Garland scored his team-leading 20th goal and host Arizona beat New York.

Raanta was sharp for the second straight game after a shaky performance against Ottawa. Clayton Keller scored his first goal in nine games in the first period, and Garland became the Coyotes' first 20-goal scorer of the season with a one timer in the third.

Panthers 5, Sharks 3: Evgenii Dadonov and Mike Hoffman scored, Aaron Ekblad had two assists and Stumps Florida won at San Jose.

Colton Sceviour, Anton Stralman and Vincent Trocheck also scored for the Panthers, who had lost six of seven. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 29 shots, and Florida moved within two points of idle Toronto for third place in the Atlantic Division.

Dylan Gambrell, Kevin Labanc and Timo Meier each scored.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|
| Team | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | Diff | Streak |
| Tampa Bay | 60 | 40 | 15 | 5 | 85 | 215 | 159 | +56 | W |
| Toronto | 60 | 31 | 11 | 18 | 70 | 211 | 198 | +13 | W |
| Florida | 59 | 31 | 22 | 6 | 68 | 206 | 201 | +5 | W |
| Buffalo | 59 | 27 | 24 | 8 | 62 | 194 | 188 | +6 | W |
| Montreal | 61 | 27 | 26 | 8 | 62 | 184 | 188 | -4 | W |
| Ottawa | 59 | 20 | 28 | 11 | 51 | 156 | 200 | -44 | W |
| Detroit | 61 | 14 | 43 | 4 | 32 | 123 | 229 | -106 | W |

Metropolitan Division

| Team | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | Diff | Streak |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|
| Washington | 59 | 31 | 11 | 17 | 79 | 208 | 180 | +28 | W |
| Pittsburgh | 57 | 36 | 15 | 6 | 78 | 191 | 152 | +39 | W |
| N.Y. Islanders | 58 | 33 | 18 | 7 | 72 | 167 | 159 | +8 | W |
| Columbus | 60 | 30 | 18 | 12 | 72 | 155 | 150 | +5 | W |
| Philadelphia | 59 | 32 | 20 | 7 | 71 | 193 | 177 | +16 | W |
| Carolina | 58 | 33 | 21 | 4 | 70 | 189 | 163 | +26 | W |
| N.Y. Rangers | 58 | 30 | 24 | 4 | 64 | 189 | 181 | +8 | W |
| New Jersey | 58 | 22 | 26 | 10 | 54 | 162 | 204 | -42 | W |

Western Conference

| Central Division | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|
| Team | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | Diff | Streak |
| St. Louis | 59 | 32 | 17 | 10 | 74 | 187 | 172 | +15 | W |
| Dallas | 59 | 32 | 18 | 9 | 73 | 206 | 184 | +22 | W |
| Colorado | 58 | 33 | 18 | 7 | 73 | 206 | 184 | +22 | W |
| Nashville | 58 | 29 | 22 | 7 | 65 | 189 | 187 | +2 | W |
| Winnipeg | 60 | 30 | 25 | 5 | 65 | 173 | 181 | -8 | W |
| Minnesota | 58 | 27 | 24 | 7 | 61 | 176 | 187 | -11 | W |
| Chicago | 59 | 26 | 25 | 8 | 60 | 176 | 188 | -12 | W |

Pacific Division

| Team | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA | Diff | Streak |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|
| Edmonton | 59 | 32 | 21 | 6 | 70 | 190 | 183 | +7 | W |
| Vegas | 61 | 31 | 22 | 8 | 70 | 192 | 185 | +7 | W |
| Vancouver | 59 | 32 | 22 | 5 | 69 | 191 | 180 | +11 | W |
| Calgary | 61 | 31 | 24 | 6 | 68 | 180 | 159 | +21 | W |
| Arizona | 62 | 30 | 24 | 8 | 68 | 172 | 167 | +5 | W |
| San Jose | 59 | 26 | 24 | 9 | 56 | 155 | 184 | -29 | W |
| Anaheim | 59 | 24 | 28 | 7 | 55 | 155 | 186 | -31 | W |
| Los Angeles | 59 | 21 | 33 | 5 | 47 | 145 | 187 | -42 | W |

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Pittsburgh 5, Detroit 1

Boston 3, N.Y. Rangers 1

Edmonton 4, Carolina 3

Anaheim 5, Vancouver 1

San Jose 4, Columbus 3

Ottawa 4, Dallas 3

New Jersey 4, Columbus 3

Buffalo 5, Toronto 2

Winnipeg 3, Chicago 2

Arizona 2, N.Y. Islanders 1

Montreal 4, Los Angeles 3

Calgary 6, Anaheim 4

San Jose 4, Vegas 3

Tampa Bay 4, Colorado 3

Columbus 3, Philadelphia 2

Toronto at Pittsburgh

Montreal at Nashville

Los Angeles at Winnipeg

N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis

St. Louis at Vegas

N.Y. Rangers at Chicago

Arizona at Dallas

Boston at Edmonton

Florida at Anaheim

N.Y. Islanders at Colorado

Minnesota at Vancouver

Thursday's games

Montreal at Washington

Philadelphia at Columbus

Pittsburgh at Toronto

San Jose at New Jersey

Winnipeg at Ottawa

Arizona at St. Louis

Tampa Bay at Vegas

Florida at Los Angeles

Scoring leaders

| Player | GP | G | A | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Leon Draisaitl, EDM | 59 | 34 | 61 | 95 |
| David Pastrnak, BOS | 60 | 42 | 40 | 82 |
| Connor McDavid, EDM | 59 | 32 | 57 | 89 |
| Nathan MacKinnon, COL | 57 | 32 | 48 | 80 |
| Antoni Panarin, NYR | 57 | 29 | 49 | 78 |
| Brad Marchand, BOS | 60 | 23 | 51 | 74 |
| Patrick Kane, CHI | 59 | 27 | 47 | 74 |
| Jack Eichel, BUF | 59 | 27 | 44 | 71 |
| Nikita Kucherov, TB | 57 | 28 | 44 | 72 |
| Auston Matthews, TOR | 60 | 42 | 25 | 67 |
| Jonathan Huberdeau, FLA | 58 | 21 | 49 | 70 |
| John Carlson, WSH | 58 | 15 | 54 | 69 |
| Steven Stamkos, TB | 59 | 26 | 35 | 61 |
| Mitchell Marner, TOR | 49 | 15 | 40 | 55 |
| Kyle Connor, WPG | 60 | 29 | 31 | 60 |

Goals against leaders

| Player | GP | MINS | GA | Avg |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Luukko Reek, BOS | 1295 | 69 | 2.08 | 2.08 |
| Tristan Jarry, PIT | 28 | 1627 | 58 | 2.14 |
| Darcy Kuemper, ARI | 25 | 1517 | 57 | 2.17 |
| Elvis Merzlikins, CBJ | 28 | 1551 | 57 | 2.21 |
| Jaroslav Halak, BOS | 27 | 1636 | 43 | 2.31 |
| Anton Khudobin, DAL | 24 | 1340 | 52 | 2.33 |
| Jake Allen, STL | 20 | 1094 | 43 | 2.36 |
| Ben Bishop, DAL | 39 | 2215 | 88 | 2.38 |
| Ilya Samsonov, WSH | 23 | 1235 | 49 | 2.38 |
| Andrei Vasilevsky, TOR | 44 | 2646 | 101 | 2.44 |
| Pavel Francouz, COL | 22 | 1181 | 48 | 2.44 |
| Jhonas Korpiola, CBJ | 35 | 1876 | 78 | 2.49 |
| Semyon Varlamov, NYI | 36 | 2060 | 85 | 2.55 |
| Carter Hart, PHI | 35 | 1878 | 81 | 2.59 |
| Philipp Gruber, COL | 36 | 2057 | 90 | 2.63 |

Goaltenders win records

| Name, Team | GP | MINS | W | LSO |
|------------------------|----|------|----|-----|
| Andrei Vasilevsky, TBL | 44 | 2646 | 32 | 9 |
| Connor Hellebuyck, WIN | 49 | 2734 | 25 | 18 |
| Frederik Andersen, TOR | 44 | 2522 | 24 | 11 |
| Jordan Binnington, STL | 42 | 2468 | 24 | 11 |
| Carey Price, MON | 50 | 2960 | 24 | 21 |
| Marc-Andre Fleury, VGK | 42 | 2461 | 22 | 14 |
| Jacob Markstrom, VAN | 41 | 2429 | 22 | 16 |
| Tuukka Rask, BOS | 34 | 1995 | 22 | 6 |
| David Rittich, CAL | 43 | 2494 | 22 | 15 |
| Braden Holtby, WSH | 40 | 2255 | 21 | 12 |

MLB

Sounds of spring not so sweet for Houston players

By KRISTIE RIEKKE
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — These are the new sounds of spring for the Houston Astros: a fan banging on a trash can, another calling Jose Altuve a cheater.

That's what greeted the Astros during their first full-squad workout at camp Monday. And with so many around baseball not ready to forgive or forget their sign-stealing, this won't be the last time they hear it.

Meanwhile, the two-time AL champions say they are focused on ignoring the noise, and hope the official start of spring training can signal a step forward for their scandal-ridden team.

"I understand the severity of the situation, I truly do," outfielder George Springer said. "But I think — the best thing for our game to try to do and especially for us to try to put this behind us, however that's possible."

The Astros have been bombarded with questions about the sign-stealing scam since arriving in Florida. A news conference last week with owner Jim Crane, Altuve and third baseman Alex Bregman featuring poorly worded apologies was roundly criticized and did little to quiet the furor around the league in the wake of the scandal.

The barbs continued Monday when fans were allowed to view Houston's workout. A man banged on a trash can while a group including Bregman, Altuve and shortstop Carlos Correa took batting practice.

Altuve, considered one of baseball's most popular players before the scandal was revealed, quickly discovered the new norm. As he walked past a group of fans, a man yelled out, "Cheater!"

The Astros were found by Commissioner Rob Manfred to have cheated during their run to the 2017 World Series and again in the 2018 season. The investigation found that Houston used the video feed from a center field camera to see and decode the opposing catcher's signs. Players banged on a trash can to signal to batters what was coming, believing it would improve the batter's chances of getting a hit.

Manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for a year by MLB and subsequently fired by Crane last month. But many around the league said they feel that Houston's players should have faced punishment, too and have been quick to express these feelings. Bregman refused to respond directly to any comments about

“Everybody has the right to say whatever they want to say, and we put ourselves in that position. I think what we can do moving forward is learn and work extremely hard to regain the trust of baseball fans.”

Alex Bregman
Astros third baseman

his team from players across the league.

"Everybody has the right to say whatever they want to say, and we put ourselves in that position," Bregman said. "I think what we can do moving forward is learn and work extremely hard to regain the trust of baseball fans. We know that won't be easy, but we feel the responsibility to do that." Veteran Dusty Baker was hired just before spring training to take Hinch's place. And though he wasn't part of the team during the scandal, the 70-year-old is front and center while the Astros try to put it behind them.

"The players know the formula on how to get there and they just need me to help direct them and navigate them through this course we're about to take," he said.

The Astros know they've become perhaps the most despised team in baseball, but are trying to stay positive and focus on their loyal fans who are still with them.

"You get different opinions," Correa said. "When I walk around Houston, people are behind us, they love us. So, it just depends what you ask."

Houston hitters might also be concerned about getting beamed after several pitchers said they'd intentionally throw at the players they consider cheaters.

Manfred addressed the issue Sunday and said there will be no tolerance for such behavior.

"I hope that I made it extremely clear to them that retaliation in-game by throwing at a batter intentionally will not be tolerated, whether it's Houston or anybody else," Manfred said. "It's dangerous and it is not helpful to the current situation."



KAREN WARREN, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

Houston Astros second baseman José Altuve smiles during spring training in West Palm Beach, Fla., Monday. He showed off his much-talked-about tattoo earlier in the day.

Astros' Altuve displays tattoo, leading to plenty of spilled ink

By SAM FORTIER
The Washington Post

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The latest twist in the fallout from the Houston Astros' sign-stealing scandal could make a reality-TV producer blush.

The Astros' clubhouse was quiet just after 9 a.m. Monday when in walked José Altuve, the owner of the most-buzzed-about tattoo in sports. He pulled off his shirt, slung it over his left shoulder and positioned it to cover his collarbone.

Carlos Correa had sparked a stir Saturday when, in an interview with The Athletic, he claimed Altuve had an unfinished tattoo "that honestly looked terrible." Correa was defending his teammate — who had come under fire from some of baseball's biggest stars, including the Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger — after he prevented teammates from ripping his jersey off after his home run sent the Astros to last year's World Series. Although Major League Baseball's report found no evidence that the Astros wore buzzers to telegraph incoming pitches, others saw Altuve's reaction as a damning moment.

Some questioned whether Altuve had a tattoo at all. Pictures surfaced of him shirtless and inkless as recently as July. One *Zapruder*-esque film breakdown found what could've been a tat-

“Sometimes it doesn't come [out] right, the way you like it.”

José Altuve

Astros second baseman on his tattoo

toomed "M."

In the clubhouse, Altuve turned to survey the roughly 40 reporters in front of Correa's locker. His shirt dropped to reveal dark script on his collarbone: "Melanie," the name of his 3-year-old daughter, with a small pink heart blooming from the end. The theatrics did not appear to be an accident.

"What [Correa] did — go out there and defend our teammates — is amazing," Altuve said later. "I have nothing to say about [Bellinger]."

If the spring training war of words lulled Sunday — because only Commissioner Rob Manfred made incendiary comments — it flared up again Monday. Across the majors, many position players reported to camp, and mild-mannered Mike Trout put the Astros in his crosshairs. The Los Angeles Angels outfielder advocated for those involved in the "player-driven" scheme to receive some penalty, maybe even "taking a trophy away, taking the rings away."

Another star, the Dodgers' Justin Turner, blamed Manfred for

not doing enough to prevent future cheating and suggested the Astros should be stripped of their 2017 World Series title. Manfred on Sunday had said he considered that an inadequate action because the World Series trophy was "a piece of metal."

The Astros battered down the batters for what they hope will be the last few days of vocal, widespread scorn. All but a few players have said their piece by now. That it has gone on this long surprised some in the clubhouse: Players, including catcher Martin Maldonado and reliever Roberto Osuna, video-chatted with friends Monday to show them how many reporters remained.

Altuve tried to kill the tattoo story once and for all. He said he got it in the middle of the season in San Francisco — the Astros didn't play the Giants last season, but they did have series at the Oakland Athletics in late May/early June and mid-August — and that it later needed retouching.

"Sometimes it doesn't come [out] right, the way you like it," he said.

MLB

Metal of dishonor: Players rip into Manfred

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Players who have won a World Series — and those who have come up short — seethed Monday at Commissioner Rob Manfred's reference to the sport's championship trophy as merely a "piece of metal," saying that comment reflected a disconnect between baseball's boss and those who produce the product on the field.

"It bothered me, man. I hated it. It made him sound really out of touch," said reliever Sean Doolittle, a member of the 2019 title-winning Washington Nationals. "That's the holy grail of our sport. That's what we show up for in the beginning of February, thinking about and working towards."

Added Doolittle: "I just can't believe how out of touch that is. You're the commissioner of our game. You're the steward of this game. That's a really special

thing. It's an iconic symbol of our game. Please don't say that, even off-hand, even tongue-in-cheek."

This all stems from the Houston Astros' sign-stealing scam in 2017 and 2018.

There have been calls for players involved to be punished in some way; MLB gave them immunity in exchange for cooperating with the investigation.

Some think the Astros should be stripped of their 2017 championship, but Manfred said this on Sunday in an interview with ESPN: "The idea of an asterisk or asking for a piece of metal back seems like a futile act."

Doolittle and other players noted that the official name of the hardware itself is The Commissioner's Trophy.

"For him to devalue it the way he did yesterday just tells me how out of touch he is with the players in this game. At this point, the only thing devaluing that trophy is that it says 'commissioner' on

it," said Justin Turner, whose Los Angeles Dodgers lost to the Astros in the 2017 Series.

"It's pretty obvious what everyone thinks should happen. I mean, no one in this clubhouse or in this room is asking for a trophy to be handed us, by any means. ... But at the same time, we understand how difficult it is to win a World Series. It's hard. It's really hard. And it's something that you have to earn," Turner said at LA's camp in Glendale, Ariz. "It's pretty evident to me that it wasn't earned and it's not something that a banner should be hung in their stadium (or) a trophy should be put up wherever their trophies go."

Evan Longoria was bothered by Manfred's words.

"Well, there's a couple of pieces of metal, right? You get a ring, too. That's a big piece of metal," Longoria said Monday after the San Francisco Giants' first full-squad workout in Scottsdale, Ariz.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Washington Nationals pitcher Sean Doolittle smashes a cabbage on a sidewalk Monday while teammates cheer as part of a team-building exercise and in recognition of National Cabbage Day.



DARROW CUMMINGS/AP

Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout, watching batting practice Monday, called for the Astros' players to be punished.

Trout calls for bigger punishment for Astros

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Mike Trout said he thinks the Houston Astros should pay more dearly for their cheating ways.

The Los Angeles Angels' three-time AL MVP ripped the Astros and questioned the discipline handed out by Major League Baseball on Monday after he reported to spring training. Trout joined the chorus of prominent big leaguers angry about Houston's rampant sign stealing on its way to the 2017 World Series title and beyond.

"It's sad for baseball," he said. "It's tough. They cheated. I don't agree with the punishments, the players not getting anything. It was a player-driven thing. It sucks, too,

because guys' careers have been affected. A lot of people lost jobs. It was tough.

"Me going up to the plate knowing what was coming? It would be fun up there. A lot of guys lost respect for some of the guys."

Trout said a few members of the Astros reached out to him during the offseason to explain their side, but Trout didn't sound impressed.

"You don't know what helped them or what not," he said. "But if you know what's coming, it's going to definitely help them. I don't know if you take the trophy away or take the rings away, but they should definitely do something."

Trout doesn't remember hearing the Astros banging on trash cans at Minute Maid

Park during his nine big league seasons, all with the Angels in the AL West.

"I noticed the banging off the bat from center field," Trout said. "It just feels like they weren't missing pitches. It's frustrating, because you have guys coming in here battling every day and working on stuff. ... I can't imagine what the pitchers feel like. It's a mental game. You go in a stretch where you're doing good, and you go into Houston and get banged up, it could mentally drain you."

Trout didn't make a suggestion for what the Astros players' punishment should have been, but the scandal touched a nerve in the Halos' center fielder, who has spent his career trying to outthrust the Astros.

Briefs

Mikolas likely to miss season

JUPITER, Fla. — St. Louis Cardinals right-hander Miles Mikolas will receive a platelet-rich plasma injection in his ailing throwing arm, likely delaying his regular-season debut by about one month.

A 2018 All-Star, Mikolas received a similar injection after last season to treat a flexor tendon issue.

St. Louis manager Mike Shildt said Tuesday that the injection will keep Mikolas from throwing for three to four weeks. Once he is cleared to throw, Mikolas will have to restart his throwing program from the beginning.

"It gives us a better chance to be able to get him off to a healthy start and get what he's dealing with behind him," Shildt said.

The Cardinals scratched Mikolas from his second scheduled bullpen session of the spring. An MRI done over the last few days showed the arm to be no better or worse than during a similar exam taken following the 2019 season.

It's possible that Mikolas will remain in Jupiter when the Cardinals break camp in late March.

Judge has right shoulder issue

TAMPA, Fla. — New York Yankees slugger Aaron Judge was not in any batting practice group for the team's first full squad workout on Tuesday because of a minor right shoulder issue.

The problem is not considered serious and Judge is expected to take part in other drills.

The outfielder hit .272 with 27 homers with 55 RBIs in 102 games last season.

Cespedes says he'll stay silent

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Yoenis Cespedes was approached by reporters at his locker on Monday — the first day of New York Mets' full-squad workout. He declined to speak to the media about his offseason, his general health since recovering from double-heel surgery and the wild boar he reportedly confronted on his property.

"Not today, not tomorrow, not at all this year," he said.

— Associated Press

NBA/GOLF

Around the league

Beating the odds

Grizzlies, Thunder among teams in surprisingly good places

By TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

The oddsmakers in Las Vegas usually know what they're talking about.

But even they get things wrong from time to time, and this season in the NBA there have been a few notable misses from all those preseason prognostications — specifically, ones made in relation to the Memphis Grizzlies and Oklahoma City Thunder.

The Grizzlies have already topped most preseason projections for their win total. The sports books had them around 27 wins, and the Ja Morant-led club already has 28 wins and is holding down the Western Conference's No. 8 playoff spot with 28 games left.

"We are just young, very athletic and just get out and run," said Morant, a clear Rookie of the Year front-runner and probably the favorite at this point. "I feel like we all have something to prove. We just go out with this chip on our shoulder. We keep proving people wrong. But we go out every night and play together."

And the Thunder, who were expected to freefall after losing Paul George, were slotted by most books as a 32-win team or so. They're at 33-22, firmly in the West playoff race, led by a resurgent All-Star in Chris Paul.

It's clear that many thought the Thunder — the supposedly rebuilding Thunder — wouldn't be a postseason team. Then again, many of those same people probably thought Paul wasn't still capable of leading the way he has this season.

"For me, it's always about the journey," Paul said. "It's about working hard, and it's the analytics and the statistics that say at this age you can do this or you can do that. ... I think it's more about competing with yourself and not worry about what everybody else is saying."

There have been a couple of other very notable surprises in Miami and Toronto.

The Heat didn't make the playoffs last year, lost Dwyane Wade to retirement and brought in Jimmy Butler to lead a largely very young, very unproven core this season. And it has worked: The Heat are in the mix for home-court in the first round, and are thinking even bigger than that.

"It started in the summer," said first-time All-Star Bam Adebayo, this year's NBA Skills Competition winner. "It's building habits. Jimmy is one of those guys. He wants to hold people to a higher standard. Our organization wants to hold people to a higher standard. So it just made it all synch together. Everybody doesn't take anything personal when somebody gets on them. It's all love at the end of the day."

And then there's the Raptors.

They lost NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard,

the MVP of this year's All-Star Game. They lost Danny Green. They've been walloped this year by injuries. Despite it all, they're No. 2 in the East right now and aren't just on pace to win more regular-season games than they did in their championship season a year ago — they're on pace to set a franchise record.

"The journey is the best part about it," Raptors All-Star guard Kyle Lowry said. "You've got to enjoy and have fun with the journey every single day. ... The thing that matters to me is that we're continuing to be a better team every single night."

The week ahead

A short week, but here are games to watch starting Thursday when the season resumes:

Thursday, Brooklyn at Philadelphia: Let the jostling for Eastern Conference positioning begin.

Friday, New Orleans at Portland: A pair of teams looking to get hot and sneak in down the stretch.

Saturday, Cleveland at Miami: The Heat will send Dwyane Wade's No. 3 jersey to the rafters.

Sunday, Boston at L.A. Lakers: Celtics vs. Lakers, especially when both are good, is always must-watch.

Monday, Memphis at L.A. Clippers: Grizzlies are No. 8 out West, but their remaining schedule is brutal.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Toronto | 40 | 15 | .727 | — |
| Boston | 38 | 16 | .704 | 1½ |
| Philadelphia | 34 | 21 | .618 | 6 |
| Brooklyn | 25 | 28 | .472 | 14 |
| New York | 17 | 36 | .309 | 23 |

Southeast Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Miami | 35 | 19 | .648 | — |
| Orlando | 24 | 31 | .436 | 11½ |
| Washington | 20 | 33 | .377 | 14½ |
| Charlotte | 18 | 36 | .333 | 17 |
| Atlanta | 15 | 41 | .268 | 21 |

Central Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| Milwaukee | 46 | 8 | .852 | — |
| Indiana | 32 | 23 | .582 | 14½ |
| Chicago | 19 | 36 | .345 | 27½ |
| Detroit | 19 | 38 | .333 | 28½ |
| Cleveland | 14 | 40 | .259 | 32 |

Western Conference

| Southwest Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Houston | 34 | 20 | .630 | — |
| Dallas | 22 | 28 | .440 | 6 |
| Memphis | 28 | 26 | .519 | 6 |
| San Antonio | 23 | 31 | .426 | 11 |
| New Orleans | 23 | 32 | .418 | 11½ |

Northwest Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Denver | 38 | 17 | .691 | — |
| Utah | 36 | 18 | .667 | 1½ |
| Oklahoma City | 33 | 22 | .600 | 5 |
| Portland | 31 | 23 | .574 | 13½ |
| Minnesota | 16 | 37 | .302 | 21 |

| Pacific Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| L.A. Lakers | 41 | 12 | .774 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 37 | 18 | .673 | 5 |
| Phoenix | 22 | 33 | .400 | 20 |
| Sacramento | 21 | 33 | .389 | 20½ |
| Golden State | 12 | 43 | .218 | 30 |

Sunday's game
2020 All-Star Game
Team LeBron 157, Team Giannis 155

Monday's games
No games scheduled.

Tuesday's games
No games scheduled.

Wednesday's games
No games scheduled.

Thursday's games
Milwaukee at Detroit
Miami at Atlanta
Brooklyn at Philadelphia
Charlotte at Chicago
Memphis at Sacramento
Houston at Golden State

Wright's impact similar to Tiger's

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

The swing was so fundamentally sound that it got the attention of anyone who knew and cared about golf, even those considered to be among the greatest to ever play.

The appeal was so strong that it carried an entire tour, even as the attention became suffocating. The rate of winning was unprecedented. No one had ever held all four major championships at the same time.

That was the essence of Mickey Wright. Unlike the modern version — Tiger Woods — Wright was consumed more with seeking perfection in the golf swing than utter domination, although one led to the other.

"I was always practicing, and re-practicing, the same thing, over and over and over," Wright said in a 2011 interview with The Associated Press. "You never get it. You just borrow it for a day or two. The feel of contact with a golf ball is unlike anything I ever experienced. And I loved it."

Wright died on Monday of a heart attack at age 85, leaving behind a legacy that is measured as much by aesthetic beauty of her swing as her 52 victories and 13 majors during a comet-like career on the LPGA Tour.

She retired from full-time competition in 1969 when she was 34.

No telling how many times she could have won.

Wright won the LPGA Championship and the U.S. Women's Open in 1959. That began a seven-year stretch in which she won 59 times and 12 majors. She won at least 10 times a year for four successive years, and she still holds the LPGA Tour record for 13 wins in a single season.

Ben Hogan agreed to a rare interview in 1984 with the late Rhonda Glenn, who said she was setting up two tape recorders when she mentioned that Mickey Wright passed along her regards. Glenn said Hogan leaned back in his chair with a big smile, looked into the distance and said, "Mickey Wright ... greatest swing I ever saw. Boy, what a swing!"

Byron Nelson also said her swing was good as there ever was, and that came to define Wright.

"She was the best I've ever seen, man or woman," Kathy Whitworth told ESPN in 2015. "I've had the privilege of playing with Sam Snead and Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer and all of them. And some of our ladies had wonderful swings. But nobody hit it like Mickey, just nobody."

Judy Rankin recalls a different impact. She joined the LPGA Tour as a teenager when Wright was at the peak of her powers.

"In her time, because of her enormous skill, she got the LPGA a lot of kudos from men in the game," Rankin said Monday nighting from her home in Texas. "That's happening a lot more today. In that time, it didn't happen at all. In Mickey, I think the men saw something else. That was really good for us."

But only for so long. Wright held such appeal that sponsors threatened to cancel tournaments if she didn't play. And Wright realized if the tournaments went away, the other players had nowhere else to go. So she played.



BRANDON DILL/AP

Grizzlies guard Ja Morant, center, drives against the Trail Blazers last Wednesday. Morant has Memphis holding down the No. 8 spot in the West with 28 victories.



MATTHEW HINTON/AP

Chris Paul, right, has led the Thunder to a 33-22 record, firmly in the West playoff race, when were slotted by most books as a 32-win team or so.

By the numbers

14:11 3 21

The length of the fourth quarter of the All-Star Game, longer than the customary 12 minutes because the teams had a fixed point total to reach to win.

The number of dunks the teams combined for in the fourth quarter on Sunday. There were 50 total, by the AP count, in the first three quarters.

The number of fouls committed in the fourth quarter, when the teams shot 26 FTs. They combined for 14 fouls in the first three quarters and shot just 13 FTs.

DAYTONA 500

Scoreboard

Monday

NASCAR Cup Series
At Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Beach, Fla.
(Starting position in parentheses)
 1. (21) Ryan Hamlin, Toyota, 209.
 2. (27) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 209.
 3. (19) Chris Bueschowski, Ford, 209.
 4. (30) David Ragan, Ford, 209.
 5. (10) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 209.
 6. (23) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 209.
 7. (39) Brendan Gaughan, Chevrolet, 209.
 8. (36) Corey LaJoie, Ford, 209.
 9. (7) Ryan Newman, Ford, 209.
 10. (16) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 209.
 11. (25) John Hunter Nemechek, Ford, 209.
 12. (13) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 209.
 13. (23) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 209.
 14. (26) Michael McDowell, Ford, 209.
 15. (11) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, 209.
 16. (34) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, 209.
 17. (25) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 209.
 18. (14) Erik Jones, Toyota, 208.
 19. (16) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 207.
 20. (1) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 206.
 21. (17) Christopher Bell, Toyota, Accident, 205.
 22. (5) Aric Almirola, Ford, 205.
 23. (37) Joey Gase, Chevrolet, 203.
 24. (2) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 203.
 25. (20) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, Accident, 201.
 26. (3) Joey Logano, Ford, Accident, 200.
 27. (32) Timmy Hill, Ford, Accident, 200.
 28. (22) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, Accident, 199.
 29. (1) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, Accident, 198.
 30. (24) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, Accident, 198.
 31. (40) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, Accident, 188.
 32. (15) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, Accident, 186.
 33. (18) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, Accident, 184.
 34. (28) Kyle Busch, Toyota, Engine, 184.
 35. (6) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, Accident, 184.
 36. (9) Brad Keselowski, Ford, Accident, 183.
 37. (12) Cole Custer, Ford, Rear End, 178.
 38. (38) BJ McLeod, Ford, Accident, 175.
 39. (35) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, Accident, 89.
 40. (4) William Byron, Chevrolet, Accident, 58.
Average Speed of Race Winner: 141.11 mph.
Time of Race: 3 hrs, 42 mins, 10 Secs.
Margin of Victory: .014 Seconds.
Caution Flags: 9 for 30 laps.
Lead Changes: 23 among 13 drivers.
Lap Leaders: R. Stenhouse Jr. 6R. Stenhouse Jr. 1-23M. McDowell 24B. Keselowski 25-28A. Almirola 29-30B. Keselowski 31-36R. Newman 35A. Almirola 40-43C. Elliott 44-66A. Bowman 67D. Hamlin 68-92C. LaJoie 93D. Hamlin 94-135B. Blaney 136R. Stenhouse Jr. 137R. Blaney 138-140R. Busch 141-146B. Keselowski 149-153J. Logano 154-169J. Johnson 170-172A. Bowman 173-174K. Busch 175-186B. Keselowski 181-183R. Newman 184-197D. Hamlin 198-209.
Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Lead, Laps Led): Denny Hamlin 3 times for 79 laps; Brad Keselowski 4 times for 30 laps; Ricky Stenhouse Jr. 2 times for 24 laps; Chase Elliott 1 time for 23 laps; Ryan Newman 2 times for 15 laps; Kyle Busch 2 times for 14 laps; Aric Almirola 2 times for 13 laps; Joey Logano 1 time for 6 laps; Ryan Blaney 2 times for 4 laps; Alex Bowman 2 times for 3 laps; Jimmie Johnson 1 time for 3 laps; Corey LaJoie 1 time for 1 lap; Michael McDowell 1 time for 1 lap.

Johnson's final try ends in wreck

Retiring driver, two-time winner settles for 35th

By DAN GELSTON
 Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.

Jimmie Johnson tugged at his baseball cap, walked to a golf cart and sat backward on the dash for a ride out of the Daytona garage. After a Speedweeks where



Johnson

Johnson was hailed by many of his peers as the greatest NASCAR driver of all time, Johnson's expected final Daytona 500 ended with the seven-time champion looking at a scoring pylon that ticked off laps without him.

Johnson was collected in a late-race wreck at the Daytona 500, and his #OneFinalTime kickoff in the final full season of his NASCAR career ended with a 35th-place finish.

"It's been really a cool race to be a part of," Johnson said. "You only dream of racing in races like this as a kid."

Johnson, tied with Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt with seven Cup Series titles, was trying to win for the first time in 96 races and had a strong No. 48 Chevrolet down the stretch.

His Chevy was parked on pit road following the multi-car wreck, and his crew furiously tried to repair it and at least have Johnson finish the race in the car. The time allotted to make the necessary repairs expired, and so did Johnson's chance of salvaging a better finish.

He finished well behind winner Denny Hamlin in a race marred



CHUCK McQUINN/AP

Aric Almirola, left, and Jimmie Johnson, right, crash with other cars on the backstretch during the NASCAR Daytona 500 on Monday at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

'That competitive spirit still is very intense inside of me.'

Jimmie Johnson

Seven-time NASCAR Cup champion who is in his final season behind the wheel

by the fiery last-lap wreck that sent Ryan Newman to the hospital.

Johnson was long gone by the end, content that he knew he could still be competitive in the 48.

"It helps to always run good," Johnson said. "That competitive spirit still is very intense inside of me."

Johnson, the El Cajon, Calif., native, was celebrated through out Speedweeks, and he tried his best to savor NASCAR's biggest race. Johnson walked to a meet-and-greet Sunday when his golf cart ride was scrapped because of tightened security spurred by President Donald Trump's arrival. Johnson paused when he saw the 22-foot high flagstand, where

twice the checkered flag waved to declare him the Daytona 500 champion, and decided to climb up. Dressed in khakis and a black polo shirt, Johnson surveyed the empty track, where hours later he made his expected final Daytona 500 start. He even left behind a keepsake: He autographed a white square and added an "L" for Let's Go on the checkered start/finish line.

"In the car, that's my space," Johnson said. "I'm perfectly happy and content with the decision I made. Maybe inside the car isn't highly emotional yet because it's still early in the year. It's just the first race of 38. I can tell you, there's been weight on my shoulders outside the car. Just in the

car, you're trying to win."

Johnson was waved to the front of the field during Sunday's pace laps to raucous applause from a sold-out Daytona International Speedway. He was mobbed as he made his way through the garage by autograph seekers who wanted one more keepsake. He signed a woman's shirt, the bill of baseball caps and other memorabilia.

Johnson won five straight championships from 2006 through 2010, and his 83 career victories are tied with Cale Yarborough for sixth all time. But he's mired in a 96-race losing streak spanning more than two years, and he had two crew chief changes last season.

Crew chief Cliff Daniels, starting his first full season, was in Johnson's ear on the radio before Monday's race resumed: "Let's buckle down and finish this thing the way we wanted."

Johnson instead left waiting on another race to end the losing streak.

Fiery: Crash displayed safety improvements

FROM BACK PAGE

since 2001, but Newman's crash had everyone worried.

The damage to his Mustang was extensive — it appeared the entire roll cage designed to protect his head had caved — and officials didn't allow his team near the accident site. Two agonizing hours after the crash, NASCAR read a statement from Roush Fenway Racing that said Newman was in "serious condition, but doctors have indicated his injuries are not life threatening."

Hamlin, meanwhile, was trying to find the delicate balance of celebrating a milestone victory while showing proper respect to an injured driver. Initially unaware of Newman's situation, Hamlin did

violate burnouts and celebrated with his team.

Not until Fox Sports said it would not interview him did Hamlin learn the severity of the situation. Team owner Joe Gibbs was apologetic for the No. 11 team's initial reaction.

"I was focusing on our car, and everybody started celebrating around us," Gibbs said. "So I say to everybody out there, some people may have saw us and said, 'Well, these guys are celebrating when there's a serious issue going on.' I apologize to everybody, but we really didn't know."

The crash was a stark reminder of both the dangers of auto racing and the improvements NASCAR has made since 2001, when Dale Earnhardt was killed on the final lap of the Daytona 500. Earnhardt

was the last Cup driver killed in a race and NASCAR has made massive safety improvements in the nearly 20 years since.

"I think we take for granted sometimes how safe the cars are," Hamlin said. "But number one, we are praying for Ryan."

Newman had taken the lead on the final lap when Ryan Blaney's bumper caught the back of his Ford and sent Newman hard right into the wall.

Drivers were stricken with concern, including Hamlin, the first driver since Sterling Marlin in 1995 to win consecutive Daytona 500s.

"It's a weird balance of excitement and happiness for yourself, but someone's health and their family is bigger than any win in any sport," he said.



DAVID GRAHAM/AP

Ryan Newman slides across the finish line upside down after he was involved in a crash during the final lap of the Daytona 500 on Monday at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. Sunday's race was postponed because of rain.

SPORTS

**11 straight**Lightning top Avalanche in OT,
extend winning streak » **NHL, Page 19****DAYTONA 500**

Ryan Newman, top, goes airborne after being slammed into by Corey LaJoie during the final lap of Monday's Daytona 500 at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

PHOTOS BY JOHN RAOUX/AP



Denny Hamlin won his second straight Daytona 500 and third in five years.

Fiery finish

Crash overshadows Hamlin's win

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — In a single thrilling lap around NASCAR's most storied track, Denny Hamlin and Ryan Newman displayed the risks and rewards of the dangerous sport they both love.

Hamlin won his second consecutive Daytona 500 and third in five years on Monday night as he surged

past Newman on the final lap of a second overtime shootout. The win came as Newman's car was turned hard into the wall, then flipped onto its roof, where he was helpless as he was hit in the driver's side by another car.

His car continued to skid upside down along the speedway and it crossed the finish line in flames as safety crews hurried to snuff out the fire and pry Newman loose. It took several minutes for his car to be rolled back onto its wheels, and

medical personnel used solid black barriers to block the view as the 2008 Daytona 500 winner was placed in a waiting ambulance and taken to a hospital.

All the while, a sense of dread settled over Daytona and its showcase race, already pushed back a day by rain that dampened a raucous visit by President Donald Trump. There has not been a fatality in NASCAR's elite Cup Series

SEE FIERY ON PAGE 23

Inside: Johnson crashes, finishes 35th in first race of his final season, Page 23

Sounds of spring won't let Astros forget

MLB, Page 20

No. 1 Baylor, No. 3 Kansas set to collide

College basketball, Page 18



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